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S Africa frees Kitson

Mr Steven Kitson, the British engineer detained by South African security police, was released last night, the Foreign Office said in London. A spokesman said the British Government was very pleased. Mr Kitson had been arrested after visiting his father, who is serving a 20-year prison sentence in South Africa.

Haig tells Nato to take action

Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, has told reporters in Brussels that failure to take action over Poland would assist the repression of Poles and diminish confidence in the West. He said that NATO should follow the NATO declaration on Poland Page 6.

Unions ridicule steel loss claim

British Steel Corporation's claim that the snow had caused £50m-£100m losses was attacked by union leaders as plainly absurd. Mr J. M. McGovern, the BSC chairman, had fabricated the snow scare to make fresh cutbacks, according to Mr William Sims, the steel union leader Page 11.



Mark Thatcher still missing

Mr Mark Thatcher, the Prime Minister's son, who is reported to be still missing in the Sahara desert. Mr Thatcher, aged 28, who has been taking part in the Paris to Dakar rally, was earlier said to have been rescued. Page 2.

Arms firms get assured profits

The Treasury has awarded guaranteed profit contracts to defence manufacturers, in direct breach of a commitment made to the House of Commons. The profit rate should be more than 3 per cent above the rate earned by industry in general. Page 3.

3m jobless 'until 1986'

Unemployment will remain at or around three million until 1986, Manpower Services Commission planners say in the internal working estimates. During that period 40 per cent of the unemployed will have been without a job for more than a year. Page 2.

Nurses seek 12% increase

Representatives of Britain's 400,000 nurses intend to seek a pay increase in line with inflation, now running at about 12 per cent. A meeting of the Nurses and Midwives Whitley Council negotiating committee decided it was not prepared to abide by the Government's 4 per cent cash limit. Page 2.

Election crisis at Le Monde

Attempts to elect a new editor-in-chief at Le Monde have bogged down with the rejection by the editorial staff of the last available candidate. Now, after 18 months of complicated manoeuvring, the process must begin again. Page 6.

Botham to play

Ian Botham, the England all-rounder, will play against India in the fifth Test in Madras today even if only semi-fit with a virus infection. Page 15.

For the first time The Times today publishes on page 10 a list of First Class Honours degrees at polytechnics. A second list will appear tomorrow.

Leader, page 9
Letters: On constituency boundaries, from Lord Cranborne, MP, and Mr Colin Smith; smelter closure, from Roar; Admiral D. Dunbar-Nesmith; poetry, from Lord David Cecil, CBE.

Leading articles: Poland; Flood damage.

Features, page 8
The coming challenges on public sector pay: Posing all round in the London fares war; Luyens—a chequered career.

Obituaries, page 10
Major-General Sir Kenneth Strong, Mr Ronald Lewis.

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BR threatens to suspend striking train drivers

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

The spectre of a total shutdown of the railway network rose last night when Sir Peter Parker, British Rail chairman, said that his board will on Friday consider suspending the 20,000 train drivers who are on strike in a productivity dispute. Sir Peter said the board would have to study the implications of the two-day strike, estimated to cost BR £12m, by members of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef) which started at midnight and the unions' threat of further strikes on Sunday and next Wednesday and Thursday. "We shall certainly be considering suspending all those taking industrial action but we have to go through an awful lot of permutations. At the end of the day the industry is being wrecked by what is happening at the moment," Sir Peter said after a meeting of his executive board.

Suspensions of Aslef members could be expected to produce hostile responses from the union executive, which has adopted a militant stance in the arguments over the introduction of flexible rostering. To add to BR's difficulties, a confrontation with the National Union of Railwaymen is gathering force on the sidelines. The NUR, which has agreed to flexible rostering for most of its members, wants its 500 driver members also to be paid a 3 per cent increase due from the beginning of this month. In addition some NUR guards are unhappy about proposals to increase the King's Cross depot in London and threatened to stage two lightning 24-hour strikes during the next week.

As telephone discussions continued between BR officials and the rail unions in fruitless attempts to find a basis for settling the dispute, people left work early to make sure they got home before BR started withdrawing trains in preparation for the midnight strike.

The combined effects of the bad weather and the strike appears certain to reduce industrial activity this week. Coal stocks appear to be particularly vulnerable if the strikes become prolonged as they have been reduced from 19 million tonnes in England and Wales last month to 14.9 million tonnes now. Some 1.6 million tonnes were used up last week. Sir Peter, speaking to a press conference in London, said the strike was "a tragic and would cause a 'ghostly disruption' but there was no way that BR could back down on productivity because improving efficiency was vital to its future success.

Sir Peter said that BR had broken the agreement to pay the 3 per cent Aslef increase last month but only because the union had not kept its side of the understanding that the pay increase was dependent on the productivity measures. Both NUR and Aslef executives met yesterday, the former to reiterate demands for the payment of the 3 per cent and the latter to draw up plans for the strikes next week. Aslef drivers will not work on Sunday, or any subsequent Sunday if the dispute continues.

The union's executive is also coming under pressure from some militant branches to widen the action into an indefinite stoppage. A settlement of the dispute seems distant although officials of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service are constantly in touch with the unions and the management. Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, is also standing by.

Heavy booking at London hotels
The strike has been good news for hotels in London. This is normally a quiet time of the year for many, but hotels have reported heavy booking by firms and individuals who are staying in London to be within easy reach of their offices.

The Trust House Forte group reported that six of its 19 hotels in the centre of London were nearly full by book with most of the 1,800 rooms in those hotels taken for the period of the two-day strike.

The National Bus Company reported that it would be running its normal London bus service as best it could in the bad weather and expected traffic congestion resulting from the rail strike. Special services would not be run from railway stations, but extra buses and duplicates would be run if the demand justified it.

Coach drivers were warned by the Department of Transport that they must not exceed their legally permitted hours at the wheel if they have to travel further to pick up passengers during the strike.

Men in the news: Mr Holmes, Mr Francis, Mr Milne, and Mr Hearst.

Men in the news: Mr Holmes, Mr Francis, Mr Milne, and Mr Hearst.



Sharing a platform: Sir Peter Parker, British Rail chairman, and Mr Murray, TUC general secretary, in London yesterday.

Test case victory for union

Warsaw court frees Solidarity activists

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Jan 12

To cries of approval from the public gallery, a Polish court has freed three Solidarity members accused of organising a strike at Huta Warszawa steelworks in the first days after martial law.

Two of the men, Mr Leszek Sokolowski and Mr Jacek Lipinski were acquitted. The third, Mr Karol Szadurski, received a suspended sentence of 18 months in a trial which union supporters view as a test case.

The trial had attracted wide attention from prominent Poles on the fringes of the Solidarity movement—such as Andrzej Wajda, the film director—and may well have established an important precedent in the wave of summary trials throughout the country.

There has been only one earlier report of acquittal at summary trial of four activists from the PSO car factory, who had quite clearly been wrongly arrested—but several dozen strike organisers have been sentenced to terms between two and seven years.

There is no automatic right of appeal in a summary court and most sentences are accompanied by a clause depriving the defendants of civil rights for a number of years which bars any other form of redress. The precedent that the Huta Warszawa trial seems to establish in the acceptance of the defence case, which had two main elements. The lawyers argued that in the first days after the declaration of martial law on December 13, it was impossible to speak of organised strikes. All protests were spontaneous and resulted from confusion about the scope of military rule.

Second, the authorities had to seek the cooperation of Solidarity leaders—including the three defendants—because they were unable to control the anger of the crowd that gathered in the steelworks on the Sunday and Monday after the military takeover.

The court thus appears to have recognized Solidarity as a partner in labour management, at least in circumstances where popular unrest can no longer be controlled by the factory directors.

Mr Szadurski, the former president of Solidarity in the steelworks, told the court that he had approached the managers on Monday, December 14, and asked them to calm the crowd but that the managers had said they were afraid of being torn to pieces.

One lawyer told The Times that the sentence should make it easier for courts to plead that strikes were spontaneous outbursts not organised protests, but it was by no means clear that summary courts, set up under martial law, had any legal obligation to take notice of earlier verdicts. The courts are civilian but are bound by the new regulations.

It soon became clear in court that the prosecution case had been badly coordinated. Many of the prosecution witnesses spoke in favour of Mr Szadurski, and it emerged as extremely difficult to prove who was a strike organizer and who was not.

Party bans all deviation from its ideology
By Our Foreign Staff
The Polish military regime will not tolerate any deviation from communist ideology in its promised programme of reforms, a high party official declared in a speech published yesterday.

He said that multi-party democracy in the "bourgeois" sense of the word was out of the question. And the revived trade union movement must begin by "ruthlessly eliminating from its former leadership circles all the opponents of our system."

Mr Jerzy Urbanski, head of the party's control commission, said that the idea of a national front, discussed with Solidarity before the imposition of martial law, needed to be developed. But such a front could not be a coalition, nor could it involve a compromise on communist ideology or provide a platform for "social right-wingers."

Addressing the chairman of party control bodies from the Polish provinces, Mr Urbanski called for an end to all the self-assumed the role of editor-in-chief. The present director-general, Sir Ian Trethowan, has been more inclined to devote that role to his chief assistant, Mr David Holmes, and to the director of news and current affairs, Mr Richard Francis.

It is Mr Francis's directorate which seems likely to disappear as the bonds which have bound radio and television together in this area are loosened. Mr Francis himself has declined to make any comment about the reports now being considered.

Although the changes likely to be made are mostly in the realm of internal BBC politics and organization—or "theology" as one senior executive put it—they could also affect programmes. There is known to be continuing unease about the Nine O'Clock News.

Channel Four contracts, page 2

Snow-hit villages plagued by looters

By Staff Reporter

Police patrols have been stepped up in south Wales as looters and confidence tricksters moved in to rob and damage shops and to exploit widespread shortages in communities isolated by the freezing conditions. Men have been turning up with Land-Rovers and collecting supplies for hospitals and pensions. The looters have then been sold for double the normal price.

Police have advised shopkeepers in Newport, Gwent, who have not opened for business to check their premises after a spate of robberies in the town.

Thousands of pounds worth of equipment has also been stolen from the shell of the Sonbia Gardens pavilion, Cardiff, destroyed beyond repair when its roof collapsed under the weight of snow.

Motorists who abandoned their cars have returned to find them stripped of wheels and radios and one lorry left on the M4 was relieved of its £25,000 load of electrical goods.

Conditions in Wales were slightly easier yesterday but many villages and farms remained cut off. Police in mid-Wales were considering using helicopters to drop food supplies to lonely farms and about 1,000 people in Pembrokeshire were still without electricity.

Farmers fear that the thaw when it comes will reveal extensive damage to the roads. The trophic losses. The NRU has warned that in the old counties of Erecan and Radnor, which have Britain's largest sheep population, hundreds of thousands of animals could have died.

Mr Peter Walker, the Minister for Agriculture, met farmers in Penarth, Cornwall, yesterday, to discuss their problems.

Most main roads, with the exception of high passes, were negotiable with care but motorists warning police appeals to leave the roads clear for emergency services were hampering clearing.

Continued on back page, col 3

Hint on new Ulster assembly

From Richard Ford Belfast

As Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland continued talks to work out a political initiative for the province, it became clear that the Government is not interested in a talking shop, form of devolved government.

Lord Gower, Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office, says in an interview to be published today: "We have ruled out a talking shop. We would be saying here is the form of government we propose, now get on and operate it."

His views are the first public indication of how government thinking is developing after several rounds of consultations over a political initiative, which Mr Prior is expected to announce shortly.

In the last two days delegations from the Official Unionist and Social Democratic and Labour parties have had talks with the Secretary of State and his advisers in an attempt to find a way forward for the province which can command the greatest degree of support among politicians from both communities.

The suggestion of a non-executive legislative assembly has been strongly criticised. And Mr James Moynihan, leader of the Official Unionist Party, has given a warning that no cabinet or executive would exist in Ulster unless it had powers for internal security. "Anyone who takes Stormont back without security powers is a fool."

Vice inquiry, page 2

Schoolboy 'on mission to kill Thatcher'

A schoolboy set out on a personal mission to attempt to kill Mrs Margaret Thatcher because "anarchy was the only way", the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Nigel Eastmond, aged 18, broke through tight security at the House of Commons last summer by scaling a fence into a garden used by the House of Lords staff, it was alleged.

Brandishing a sharpened 12-inch stainless steel kitchen knife, and shouting: "I want to kill Margaret Thatcher," Mr Eastmond dodged two security guards and ran through three courtyards before being overpowered by police, Miss Ann Curnow, for the prosecution, said.

Mr Eastmond was alleged to have said in a statement to police: "I wanted to kill her—definitely. I did not receive any message from God. I am not a psychopath. There are all kinds of different things which made me do it."

Mr Eastmond, of Codecote Terrace, Queens Drive, Finsbury Park, denied threatening to kill Mrs Thatcher, entering the Palace of Westminster with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm on her, having a knife in Old Palace Yard, and attempting maliciously to wound a Parliament employee on July 9.

Miss Curnow said Mr Eastmond's statement described how he had waited in a crowd outside 10 Downing Street before going to the Commons.

In the statement, she said Mr Eastmond said: "I thought I might have a chance to have a go at Mrs Thatcher, but would have a go at a Cabinet Minister instead if I couldn't. I got bored and thought anyone would do."

Miss Curnow said he was thwarted when he saw her arrive at the Commons by car some distance from where he was. "She took me by surprise and I just saw her get out by

Continued on back page, col 7

EVERN FURTHER REDUCTIONS
Today 9am-5.30pm
Open daily 9am-5.30pm, Thursdays 9am-7pm.

MEN	
NORMAL PRICE	SALE PRICE
• DAKS 3-piece suits.....	£127.00 £89.00
• DAKS Cashmere topcoats.....	£375.00 £190.00
• DAKS Cashmere jackets.....	£235.00 £139.00
• Cashmere roll-neck pullovers.....	£65.00 £42.50
• DAKS wool trousers.....	£49.00 £29.00
• Bogner ski anoraks.....	£120.00 £85.00

WOMEN	
NORMAL PRICE	SALE PRICE
• DAKS tweed skirts.....	£59.00 £25.00
• Jousse blouses.....	£21.00 £11.00
• Ralph dresses.....	£79.00 £29.00
• Knitted wool/mohair dresses.....	£58.00 £25.00
• Check coats (from a selection).....	£130.00 £69.00
• Leather quilted shoes.....	£35.00 £15.00

Simpson's
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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Thatcher son still missing

A rescue team last night continued to search for Mr. Mark Thatcher, son of the Prime Minister, who has been stranded in the Sahara desert Peugeot 504 broke down four days ago during the Paris-Dakar motor rally.

Prince aids the butterflies

The Prince of Wales is to open a nature reserve to protect one of Britain's rarest butterflies. Two of the three surviving habitats of the brown-checked Red Admiral are in the Duchy of Cornwall (High Clayton writes).

NF paper editor is jailed

Joseph Pearce, editor of *Building*, the National Front youth paper, was sentenced to six months for publishing what the judge called "evil and dangerous rubbish" likely to stir up race hatred.

Ford begins talks on productivity

Official approval for talks on making Ford plants more efficient was given yesterday when the unions confirmed acceptance of a 7.4 per cent pay offer.

'No electricity' cottager dies

Mrs Alice Rawson, aged 98, who lived for more than 60 years in a cottage without any mains services, has died just before electricity was to have been installed.

Jobless total 'will stay at 3m for four years'

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

Unemployment will remain at or around three million until 1985, according to Manpower Services Commission planners.

The commission is assuming that adult unemployment in Britain will rise gradually from the present 2,782,000 to a plateau of three million in 1983 and will not fall substantially below that for the next three years.

A confidential draft of the commission's corporate plan also predicts that for most of that period 40 per cent of the unemployed will have been without a job for more than a year.

The draft's references to the future state of the labour market amount to the first official admission that the jobless total may stay at about three million until well after the general election and are the gloomiest prediction yet of the level of long-term unemployment.

There is uncertainty about the timing and extent of a turn in employment trends and says various factors have to be taken into account, besides the state of the domestic and world economy.

Those include spare capacity in industry, which could mean that rising productivity could expand output considerably without affecting employment; projections for a growth over the next four years of 200,000 to 400,000 in the number of people seeking work; and the "low rate of investment during the recession which may make a sustained recovery more difficult."

The draft says that the

implication is that for the next three or four years at least the labour market will remain sluggish "with relatively low turnover and slow movement off the unemployment register, especially in the older industrial regions."

It adds that the length of time people are unemployed will increase and confirms that the number of people out of work for a year or more is expected to rise disproportionately to one million by this summer.

The plan's authors expect at least another 600,000 to have been unemployed for between six and 12 months and numbers would "go still higher but for the tendency of many of the long-term unemployed to move off the register into sickness or retirement."

The draft reflects serious concern about this level of long-term unemployment and proposes that the Community Enterprise Programme should be expanded to 60,000 places by March 31 1983, perhaps moving to a higher level.

The plan's publication has been delayed so that the section on youth and training can be substantially rewritten to take account of the Government's new plans, including the £1,000m New Training Scheme, which will provide a year's basic industrial training for all 16-year-olds.

The draft of the plan, prepared earlier last month, says the number of school leavers without jobs would, without special employment measures, rise from about 450,000 last summer to about 530,000 this summer and next.

Scargill confident of miners' strike vote

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Miners' leaders have been called to an emergency meeting of the National Union of Mineworkers executive committee next Tuesday to decide their next step after the two-day pitched strike ballot starting tomorrow.

Mr Arthur Scargill, the union's left-wing president, predicted yesterday that the vote would give the NUM leadership the required 55 per cent majority to mount an all-out strike later this month in pursuit of a £100-a-week minimum wage in the industry.

He told *The Times*: "I will confidently predict that my own area of Yorkshire will support the national executive and I have every reason to believe that the overall vote will be in favour."

NUM leaders seeking the support of 220,000 pitmen to threaten a national strike "if necessary" to force up the National Coal Board's £102m offer, which would give the miners increases averaging 9.5 per cent.

There has been less public activity by the union than usual in the run-up to a pitched ballot, while the coal board has run an unprecedented publicity campaign.

However, Mr Scargill said he had been addressing mass meetings of between 500 and 1,000 men in Yorkshire and they were enthusiastically supporting the strike initiative.

"The coal board are obviously panic-stricken to such an extent that they are issuing statements after statements and it would appear, indiscriminately, spending thousands of pounds earned in this industry by our members in an attempt to induce them to vote against their union," Mr Scargill said.

But the campaign in the Yorkshire coalfield is going remarkably well, and we are speaking to packed rallies. In a pre-ballot edition of the industry's paper, *Coal News*, the board outlines its offer of pay rises ranging from £6.95 on the surface to £9.50 underground.



Shell states forest oil well plans

By Craig Seton

The first day of a public inquiry in Hampshire yesterday heard Shell UK outline its plan to drill an exploratory well in the heart of the New Forest in a search for oil and gas.

The inquiry was ordered by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, after fierce opposition to the oil company's proposal by national and local conservation and amenity groups.

Mr Heseltine wants to satisfy himself that any development on the proposed site, at Denny Wood, just south of Lyndhurst, would be acceptable.

The inquiry, at Lyndhurst, is expected to take up to six weeks and the Shell case last started yesterday could last at least a week. The company's application for planning permission has already been approved by both the New Forest District Council and Hampshire County Council.

The Nature Conservancy Council and the Council for the Protection of Rural England are opposing the plan in an area they say is unique in Europe for its range of unusual habitats and the number of rare species of plants.

The Nature Conservancy Council intends to base its case on what has happened at the inland oilfield developed at Wyth Farm near Corfe Castle in Dorset, which is now producing 162,000 tonnes of oil a year.

Maths teaching boost urged

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

No hard evidence of a decline in mathematical standards in schools has been found by a committee of inquiry set up by the Government three years ago to look into the teaching of the subject.

The committee, chaired by Dr W. H. Cockfield, vice-chancellor of the New University of Ulster, comes out against any move "back to basics", though it declines to state a preference for modern or traditional methods of teaching mathematics. Its report will be published at the end of the month.

The committee says it found little real dissatisfaction among employers with the mathematical capabilities of young recruits, except among entrants to the retail trade and to engineering apprenticeships.

The most serious mathematical inadequacy was in mental arithmetic. But employers appeared to be much more concerned about punctuality, willingness, and an ability to take work seriously.

The committee reviewed the levels of mathematical attainment over the past few years, but comes to no firm conclusion about whether standards are rising or falling.

It notes that while the proportion of pupils passing examinations in mathematics was similar to that passing English, more obtained higher grades in English. However, the committee puts that down to the different nature of the subjects and the assessment techniques used, rather than differing standards.

It believes that CSE mathematics papers include too much that the average pupil could not tackle and that has had an adverse effect on motivation for many pupils.

It proposes a "foundation list" of topics for CSE which it says should form the largest part of the syllabus for lower-attaining pupils. It also wants an extra paper for able pupils at O-level. It expresses concern about the proposed new single system of examining at 16-plus.

The committee explains the importance of recruiting good quality mathematics teachers by suggesting that student mathematics teachers should receive a financial incentive in addition to their student grant.

After some hesitation it also comes out in support of higher salaries for teachers of the subject. It suggests that the Government might consider supporting a scheme for teachers' education, possibly temporarily, to assure jobs for all available, newly trained mathematics teachers.

It also suggests that the Government might need to intervene to preserve adequate in-service training for teachers. "Unless additional money is spent on in-service support for those who teach mathematics, the improved mathematical education which we believe could and should be provided for children in the future is unlikely to be available to them," it says.

The committee found no adverse effect from the use of calculators in schools. It says they should be provided in sufficient numbers to replace log tables.

The Government's national body to fund and coordinate higher education in the public sector has run into trouble before it has even been formally set up.

Polytechnic directors are so angry about what they see as local authority and government domination of the new body that they may refuse to participate.

Dr Ray Ricketts, chairman of the Committee of Directors of Polytechnics, said that the committee had accepted that the local authorities would control the body's advisory committee, chaired by Mr William Waldegrave, the Minister responsible for higher education, but it believed that the second-tier supporting board, to be chaired by Mr Christopher Ball, Warden of Keele College, Oxford, should be made up predominantly of people in the academic, professional, industry and commerce.

Latest, the Government was proposing only 12 of the 15 seats on the board should go to Department of Education and Science and local authority representatives, he said.

Furthermore, it looked as if a local authority nominee would get the key post of chief executive, while it was already known that one of his two deputies could be drawn from the department and the other from the local authorities.

"There is a very strong feeling of anger and hostility towards the new body among many polytechnic directors," Dr Ricketts said.

Science report

Setback for liver transplant patients

By Our Medical Correspondent

In the past 13 years more than 100 patients have had liver transplant operations at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. 20 are alive. One disease for which transplantation is the only cure is primary biliary cirrhosis, in which the bile ducts inside the liver become inflamed, scarred and narrowed.

Biliary cirrhosis mostly affects middle-aged women. Its cause is unknown, and no form of drug treatment has proved effective in halting the progress of the disease. The Cambridge team has treated 11 patients with primary biliary cirrhosis by liver transplantation. Four survived the crucial early postoperative months and three of these are in reasonable health four years after their surgery.

Sadly, however, there are signs that the new livers are being affected by the same disease. Those three patients had remained well for the first two years after the operations. Then they began to show signs of mild jaundice, and examination of a specimen of liver removed through a biopsy needle showed the typical microscopic picture of primary biliary cirrhosis.

All three still feel well, but the results are nevertheless discouraging for the surgical team which had hoped that transplantation would eliminate the disease. Thomas Starzl, the Denver surgeon who has transplanted more than 200 livers, has also had examples of inflammation of the bile ducts recurring in a patient who had made an apparent good recovery from the operation.

Patients with biliary cirrhosis often have diseases of the "auto-immune" type, in which the underlying defect is some disorder of the body's defence mechanisms. If, as seems likely, the disorder affects the immune system then replacing the damaged liver with a healthy one may be expected to provide only a temporary remission.

Transplantation may represent only a remission in primary biliary cirrhosis, but it does provide some patients with a dramatic improvement in their quality of life. *New England Journal of Medicine*, January 7, 1982 p1.

DRAW GIVES KUPRECHIK VICTORY

From Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent, Hastings

The thirteenth and final round of the ICI Grandmaster International Tournament here was in the nature of an anti-climax. With Smyslov making a quick draw with Talbot, all Kupreichik needed was half a point to be sure of first prize.

The Soviet grand-master was drawn against Menal, and a lively interchange of middle game brought about an ending with bishops of opposite colour in which Kupreichik was a pawn up. He tried for some consolation but a win but a draw was eventually agreed, making him a very worthy winner of the first prize.

Meanwhile, the English grandmaster Jonathan Speelman was winning the middle game against the Dutch grandmaster Hans Ree. This meant that he overhauled the former world champion Vasyl Smyslov, and became a very good equal second with the Soviet grandmaster.

The final scores were: Kupreichik 12½, Speelman 12, Smyslov 11½, Talbot 11, Menal 10½, Ree 10, and the other four players on 10 or less. The tournament was a success in many ways, but the most notable was the fact that it was held in a hall which was not a chess hall.

Adjusted game result round 12: Smyslov 1, Talbot 0, Kupreichik 1, Speelman 1, Menal 0, Ree 0, and the other four players on 0 or less.

CRIMINAL FILES FALL OFF LORRY

By Our Crime Reporter

Hundreds of Scotland Yard's confidential criminal records files were strewn across a main London thoroughfare yesterday after a sack fell off the back of a lorry.

The files were to be destroyed after being copied on microfilm. After a day of searching the road Scotland Yard said last night they could not be sure all the records had been recovered.

The Yard's collection of criminal records are held on behalf of police forces in Britain and are supposed to be subject to strict security. But an inquiry has already begun into how a national newspaper got access to them by telephone.

The records show people's previous criminal records, whether they are in prison. They were being taken from Scotland Yard to an incinerator in north London. They were in officially sealed bags on the lorry which set off for other police buildings in London.

On the Albert Bridge Road in Chelsea a sack rolled off the lorry after the rear door lock broke. A motorist stopped the driver and police were drafted in to recover the records which had blown away as the sack broke open on hitting the road.

More fuel bill aid for the poor

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

Extra help with heating bills caused by the severe cold will be available to people claiming supplementary benefits, the Department of Health and Social Security announced last night. A publicity campaign is to be launched to advise claimants of their right to the money.

The help is available under a new supplementary benefit regulation which allows more cash aid when fuel bills are high because of exceptionally severe weather.

Mr Frank Field, Labour MP for Birkenhead, yesterday drew attention to the regulation when he demanded action to alleviate the risk of hypothermia to three million elderly, sick and very young people.

Full details of how the extra help will be available will be announced later this week, but more help will be conditional on evidence that this winter's bills or heating costs are substantially higher than last year's.

The position of people paying for their fuel weekly or monthly through budget accounts, will be considered, as well as those paying quarterly bills.

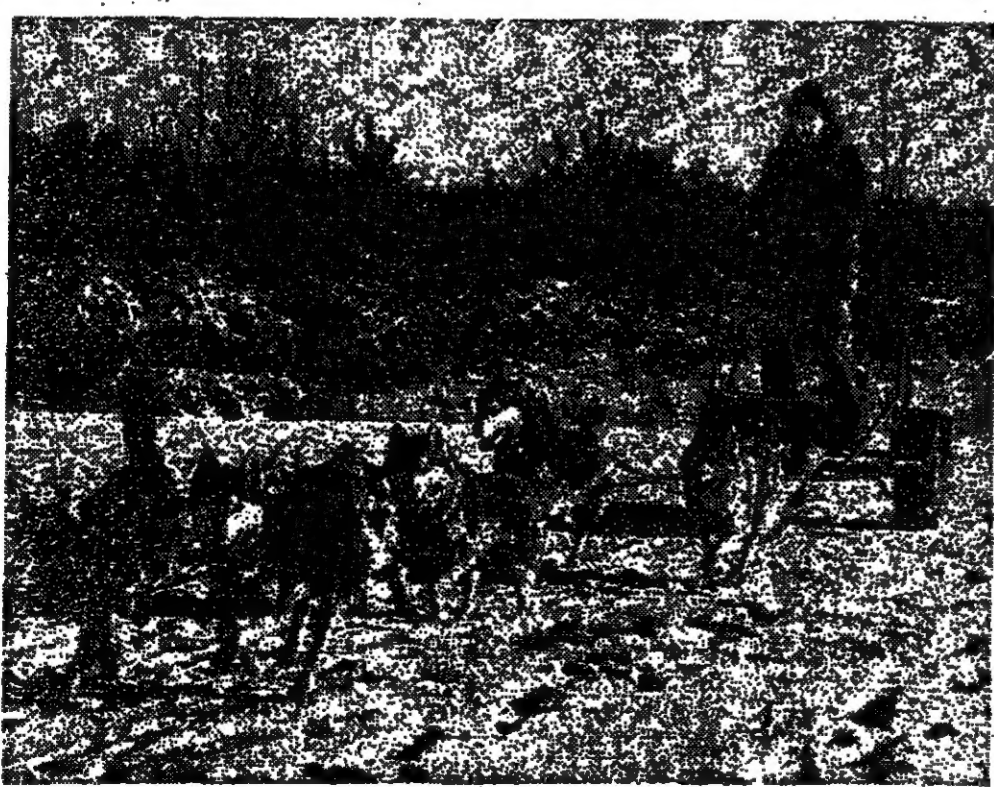
In a national disaster, such as the present floods and severe weather, ordinary households suffer most when making an insurance claim, a loss assessor said yesterday (Lorna Bourke writes).

A recent survey of 50,000 policyholders showed that 10 per cent of households were dissatisfied with the way their claim was handled.

Mr David Ritchie, chief executive of Balcombe loss assessors, said: "One in five policyholders is inadequately insured, or failed to convince the insurance company loss adjuster of the merits of their claim. Quite often householders are 50 per cent under-insured."

Mr Ritchie said people were often unaware of the terms and conditions of their policy, and failed to place an accurate valuation on their possessions. He emphasised that the difference between a loss adjuster—a paid representative of the insurance company—and a loss assessor, which represents the policyholder.

The high cost of the big freeze



The only way to travel: Jenny Manley and her team of huskies have been giving the landscape around Hythe in Hampshire even more of a North Pole flavour. The dogs, which she breeds for showing, have helped out recently with rescuers in the snow.

Vegetable prices double in month

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Prices of many vegetables in the shops have roughly doubled in the past month because of the severe weather. Even if there is an early thaw, supplies are unlikely to be plentiful again before early summer.

Successive frosts, floods and snow have prevented farmers from harvesting crops of winter greens and root vegetables, and blocked roads have prevented retailers from getting to markets to collect supplies.

Home-grown vegetables reaching the shops, particularly Brussels sprouts, cauliflowers and potatoes, are likely to show signs of frost damage. Supplies have been supplemented by imports from Holland, France and Germany, but they are expensive.

Transport difficulties are expected to have a temporary effect on supplies and prices of meat, particularly beef and lamb, but there are no indications that other foods will be affected. The position for dairy farmers in the South-west, was

said yesterday to be showing some improvement, but in South Wales farms were still cut off by heavy snowdrifts which had prevented milk collections for four or five days.

Although it was "a bit of a struggle" in north Devon, most farmers in the West Country were managing to get their milk to collection points, the Milk Marketing Board said. However it was extremely worried about the plight of Welsh farmers who were either having to pour milk down the drain or feed it to animals.

Animals have suffered severely from the weather, although it is likely to be several days yet before the full extent of losses can be assessed.

Deaths of new-born lambs may be lower than was at first feared. Hill sheep are normally able to survive exceptionally low temperatures, often burrowing "cubs" for themselves in snowdrifts, but they cannot last long without food. Welsh farmers asked the

Government yesterday to reconsider its position over the use of military helicopters to airlift supplies of fodder. At present farmers have to pay the full cost of such operations.

In Cardiff a meeting was held with EEC representatives to discuss emergency financial aid. Similar requests are likely from other parts of Britain, although Mr Philip Butcher, assistant director general of the National Farmers' Union, said it remained to be seen whether a national approach was justified.

Average retail vegetable prices:

	Now p a lb	Early Dec p a lb
Sprouts	32-45	20-24
Cabbage	18-20	12-14
Cauliflower	55-70	45-60
Potatoes	8-12	8-10
Parsnips	20-25	14-20
Carrots	22-25	8-12
Leeks (scarce)	40-60	28-32
Swedes	12-18	8-12

Inquiry into boys' home vice ring allegations

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The Government is expected to announce the membership and terms of reference of an official inquiry into the affairs of a Northern Ireland boys' home within 48 hours of fresh allegations linking it with a homosexual prostitution ring.

The claims come less than a month after three former staff members of the Kincora Boys' Home, east Belfast, admitted charges of buggery, gross indecency and indecent assault against boys in their care over almost 20 years.

A report in yesterday's *Irish Times* newspaper claimed that at least seven men, including two British civil servants were involved in the ring which also included police officers, east Belfast businessmen and justices of the peace.

A Department of Health and Social Security spokesman said the inquiry would be "pretty independent". It would not be held in public, but the Government would publish its findings.

However, the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, criticized the inquiry as utterly inadequate, adding that it had the marks of a cover-up.

After last month's court case the Eastern Health and Social Services Board announced that an inquiry would investigate the affair with three long-standing board members selecting half of the investigating committee.

Proposals that two Belfast Roman Catholic colleges should be replaced by a new centre at the city's Scranhill site and that only half the teachers for Roman Catholic schools should have any Roman Catholic training were criticized yesterday as a threat to the whole Roman Catholic education system in Northern Ireland.

The Official Unionist and Democratic Unionist parties are to discuss further with their constituency associations the idea of a joint candidate at the forthcoming Belfast, South, by-election.

Owen McCartney Smyth, a publican of Roundhouse Bar, Church Square, Monaghan, was remanded in custody yesterday to appear at Belfast Crown Court charged with conspiracy to murder Sir Norman Stronge, a former Speaker of the Northern Ireland House of Commons and his son, James, a former Unionist MP for Mid-Armagh. Mr McCartney is also charged with being a member of the IRA.

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Retrial in caning case ordered

The trial of seven youths accused of dupeing a shopkeeper out of thousands of pounds for sexual services was stopped yesterday after the judge was handed copies of *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Sun*, *The Daily Star*, and the *East Anglian Daily Times*.

Judge Greenwood said at Chelmsford Crown Court, Essex, that the newspapers carried inaccurate reports of the first day's hearing which would be certain to prejudice the jury against the accused youths, who had all pleaded not guilty to charges of deception.

The judge ordered a retrial to start on February 15. He said the case was an unusual one. In the circumstances he would not take action for contempt of court and did not intend to report the matter to the Attorney General.

Man who killed wife jailed

Lewis Wilson, aged 33, of Daycroft Walk, Kirkby, Merseyside, who killed his wife, aged 28, with an iron bar, was jailed for 10 years by Mr Justice McNeill at Liverpool Crown Court yesterday.

He pleaded Not Guilty to murder but guilty to manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility.

Strike over ice at Billingsgate

There were no fresh fish deliveries from Billingsgate, London, yesterday after a token one-day strike.

The dispute was over icy conditions at the market on Saturday which made working safely impossible, the men, who are members of the Transport and General Workers Union, said.

Hunt for black-clad motor cyclist

A motor cyclist dressed in black who robbed and viciously assaulted a woman after her car had become stuck in the snow on the A35 at Southampton, was being hunted by police yesterday.

He had a full dark beard, and was riding a black motor cycle with silver handlebars.

Prisoner found dead

A prisoner was found dead yesterday hanging in his cell in Brixton prison, London.

Paul Barrington Worrell, aged 21, had been committed under the Mental Health Act and was in the medical wing. He had pleaded guilty to wounding with intent and assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

COURT TOLD OF MURDER BODY BOAST

From Our Correspondent Southampton

A savage man scrawled "No 1" in three colours on the body of a schoolgirl after strangling her with one of her socks. A jury heard yesterday.

The letters, in pink, black and blue, were written with make-up pencils from the girl's handbag, Jamie Devitt, aged 22, later admitted to police that he had written the boast on the body. Winchester Crown Court was told.

The jury heard that he had told detectives: "Everyone thinks these days they are number one. They say they are looking after number one, meaning yourself."

Mr Devitt, who is unemployed, of Southbourne Road, Bournemouth, Dorset, pleads not guilty to murdering Louise Baker, aged 15, of Ravenscourt Road, Fokesdown, Bournemouth.

Miss Baker was returning home from a discotheque in Bournemouth last March when she was dragged into an alley. She was beaten, stripped and then flogged with a tree branch, it was claimed. Her body was left in a churchyard lavatory.

Mr Devitt was arrested two days later when he went to hospital to have treatment to injuries to his hands. Police scientists discovered that his blood belonged to only one in a hundred people. Blood of a similar type was found on the girl. He also knew certain details about the killing which had not been published. Mr Titheridge, QC, for the prosecution, said.

The trial continues.

Profits bonus for defence manufacturers

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Defence equipment manufacturers have been awarded a guaranteed profits bonus by the Treasury, in direct breach of an official commitment given to the Commons Committee of Public Accounts.

Non-competitive defence contracts, worth more than £4,000m in 1979-80, should be drawn up on the basis of a profits formula that would match the average return on capital for manufacturing industry as a whole.

But Mr Gordon Downey, the Comptroller and Auditor General, has informed the Public Accounts Committee that the present target profit rate on such defence contracts could be more than 3 per cent above the return earned by industry in general.

The average industrial return between 1973 and 1977 was 17.2 per cent, with a subsequent sharp decline forecast, while defence contractors have been paid a guaranteed target rate of 20 per cent since October 1977.

Mr Downey said that the Public Accounts Committee had already remarked "that this rate might prove excessive when compared with industry's actual earnings".

The committee said that it "regarded the principle of comparability as fundamental for determining profits allowed to an industry with a large and assured market, financed from public funds".

The Treasury had assured the committee, however, "that any systematic bias in the results would be taken into account in future reviews".

Yet a review in 1980 had failed to alter the 20 per cent target profit rate and Mr Downey asked the Ministry of Defence how it could justify such a decision.

He has now told the Public Accounts Committee: "While they and the Treasury, who were leading the negotiations, acknowledged that this did not represent a strict interpretation of the principle of comparability, they considered that any reduction in the 20 per cent rate, even if negotiable, would not be appropriate at a time when industry was facing abnormally low profits."

An independent review board, which recommended the retention of the 20 per cent return, said in its report for 1980 that the actual profits of some selected contractors had fallen marginally below the target rates between 1975 and 1978.

Mr Downey, however, reported that Ministry of Defence investigation had shown that profits were about 2 to 3 per cent above the relevant profit targets.

Checks carried out by officials from Mr Downey's exchequer and audit department also showed that six big contractors had achieved profits above target rate in 80 per cent of the contracts subsequently scrutinized by the Ministry of Defence.

One contractor, with 36 scrutinized contracts worth a total of £52m, had exceeded profit target levels in 31 cases, worth a total of £48m.

In 19 of those contracts, worth £43m, the Ministry had decided that the manufacturer had made unfair profit, with returns on capital employed of up to 176 per cent, and refunds were sought.

Another case cited by Mr Downey involved a contractor with 97 scrutinized contracts, worth £127m. Seventy contracts, worth £97m, had produced profits above target rates, including 46 contracts on which refunds had been sought by the ministry.

The Comptroller reported: "I was surprised at these consistently high profits and asked the ministry whether they had established the reasons for them."

"They told me that they were not satisfied that all the profits above target levels resulted from better than average efficiency; some arose from inaccurate estimating."

The all-party Public Accounts Committee will now take evidence from senior officials of the Treasury and the Ministry of Defence before reporting the matter to Parliament.

Mr Downey said that the Ministry of Defence had made unfair profit, with returns on capital employed of up to 176 per cent, and refunds were sought.

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Community policeman: PC Alan Murphy meeting children at Tiber Street School on his new Tootex beat

Community policing in Tootex

From John Chartres, Tootex

"Keep an eye on road junctions controlled by traffic lights. There have been a number of cases of cars being entered and the occupants sort of hijacked or held to ransom."

"Pay special attention to telephone boxes. A lot have been vandalized and there have been thefts from them."

"A lot of handbag snatching from middle-aged and elderly ladies is going on in daylight."

Inspector Tom Owens gives his orders to six "bobbies on the beat", including Woman Police Constable Jane Lees, at their formal briefing on the first day of the new, yet very old, policing system introduced in Tootex, Liverpool, by Mr Kenneth Oxford, Chief Constable of Merseyside.

The six constables walked out from Hope Street police station, which should have been closed under reorgan-

ization plans conceived before last July's riots, and set about getting to know the people, getting their own faces and names known, and trying to restore confidence between the police and the public, the breakdown of which is blamed for the troubles throughout Britain last year.

Mr Oxford invited journalists and cameramen to see it all. WPC Lees obligingly checked her make-up and the angle of her uniform cap in front of the security mirror at the door of the police station and told us all she was not frightened. If she had been frightened she would not have taken on the job, even though she did not volunteer to join the audacious strength of the Tootex Section, which is believed to number about sixty.

Police Constable Peter Maguire, aged 23, who has volunteered for the task,

Research group attacks labour law

By Paul Roudledge, Labour Editor

The Government's stated intention of bringing trade unions within the law actually means "bringing trade unionists within the walls or prisons", the Labour Research Department argues today in an analysis of the labour law reforms proposed by Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment.

The left-wing research group says that the scale of the attack on many fundamental rights of the trade union movement has not been widely appreciated. "These proposals mean that unions will be inhibited from taking action for fear that judges, who have no understanding of the history and traditions of organized labour, will ban them."

"Unions who ignore the bans and refuse to pay any damages could face contempt of court proceedings that could lead to imprisonment. When the Tories talk of bringing trade unions within the law, they mean bringing trade unionists within the walls of prisons."

Mr Tebbit intends to publish his Bill later this month after assessing representations made to him by employers, the TUC and other interested parties over the past month. The TUC's influential employment policy and organization committee meets next week to draw up the unions' battle plan against the legislation.

The TUC's own assessment of the impact of the new law is likely to have strong points of contact with the Labour Research Department analysis. The research department argues that the Employment Act, 1980, and the Tebbit package will deal a body blow to the unions.

"By changing the definition of legitimate industrial action, the Tebbit proposals mean that judges have the right to decide whether almost all strikes were lawful. Strikes against pay policies or against government-inspired redundancies could be declared unlawful."

Union funds would also be open to claims for damages where unlawful industrial action had been organized by officials.

Canal faces closure in cash crisis

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

A canal that forms part of one of Britain's most popular inland cruising routes may close this year because the National Trust cannot afford repairs to 13 miles of the Stratford-on-Avon canal.

Mr John Gaze, chief agent for the trust, said in London: "If we were to grasp the nettle, we would do it at the end of the coming season. Complete abandonment of the canal is not close, but closure of the navigation could be."

The canal was saved almost 25 years ago when volunteers and the trust decided to preserve it for leisure navigation. It has since become one of the most successful pieces of canal restoration and carries more pleasure boats than it did barges before it lost trade to the railways more than 100 years ago.

If the stretch between Stratford-on-Avon and Lapworth was closed to boats it would dislocate the Avon Ring, a popular 100-mile circuit of artificial and natural waterways which provide a roundabout route linking Birmingham and Worcester.

The ring is an absolute classic for a week-long family cruise, the trust said yesterday.

Closure would anger voluntary groups which believe that the navigation can be maintained more cheaply than the trust says. The canal was built during the Napoleonic wars and includes many important pieces of industrial archaeology, including lock cottages, unusual bridges and three cast-iron aqueducts on brick piers. It also has 36 locks and therefore has an exceptionally high proportion of engineered structures more than 100 years old.

The canal now loses more than £50,000 a year and needs extra cash for urgent repairs. "I suppose we could soldier on, but there is a mounting accumulation of actual and potential problems," Mr Gaze said. "We have said that unless we get some help we shall have to pack up."

Waste firm angered by rejection of toxic tip

By David Nicholson-Lord

A decision by the West Midlands County Council to reject a proposal to tip toxic wastes and dangerous chemicals in an inner-city area of Coventry was criticized yesterday as based on ill-informed emotional public reaction.

The proposal, centring on a seven-acre clay extraction hole near densely populated residential districts, aroused fierce resistance from local people, who feared pollution and accidents. But the sweeping nature of its rejection has also worried industrialists seeking tipping space.

The company behind the application said yesterday that recent controversies over other toxic tips had led to serious difficulties in finding new sites. Mr Frederick Griffiths, joint managing director of Little Haywood Transport, said there are no significant landfill sites left in the West Midlands, which is thus exporting much of its dangerous wastes to other parts of the country.

He added: "We feel the public response was ill founded and the council seems to have ignored professional advice. The site is perfectly safe for accepting industrial, commercial and some special category wastes. This country produces waste and we must be responsible for getting rid of it. We said he believed the company had an excellent chance of success on appeal."

The conflict over the application centred on substances such as cyanides, mercury, arsenic and acid-based wastes, some of which were later withdrawn by the company, but the council's unexpectedly comprehensive rejection included domestic refuse.

The site, destined eventually for recreation space, is in the rundown and deprived area of Foleshill. It was described as particularly sensitive by county planners. Any potentially toxic material would present an unacceptable risk, they concluded.

Objections centred on security and supervision at the proposed tip, in particu-

lar the risk that explosions or fires might result from chemical "cocktails" mixed in error. A new system of controlling dangerous wastes was introduced last spring and its effects are being studied by county councils.

According to Mr Robert Purser, one of the objectors' leaders, recent controversies have greatly increased residents' fears. These include the inquiry by Derbyshire County Council into the dumping of the lethal chemical dioxin 13 years ago, and an explosion at a tip in Stoke-on-Trent last autumn, apparently caused by the interaction of magnesium and aluminium and battery acid.

Despite modifying its application, Little Haywood intended going ahead with the dumping of peroxides, common industrial wastes which can ignite or blow up when they come into contact with organic materials, even substances as inoffensive as wood shavings.

Safety fears over nuclear reactor

The Friends of the Earth organization has written to Mr Nigel Lawson, Secretary of State for Energy, claiming that safety issues may be ignored if an American type of pressurized water reactor nuclear power station (PWR) is built at Swizeval, Suffolk (see Science Editor writes).

The project should be the subject of a public inquiry in October.

In its submission to Mr Lawson, Friends of the Earth suggests that the public inquiry may be held before all the safety documents on the proposed reactor are available.

That it says, would be contrary to a government commitment that the exact timing of the inquiry will depend on the publication of the safety analysis. The safety examination of the nuclear station has fallen behind schedule, partly because of a shortage of nuclear inspectors in the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate.

Ex-sailor is jailed over secrets

Martin Hartland, a former sailor seeking revenge for being dismissed from the Royal Navy, threatened to sell electronic warfare secrets to the Russians, the central criminal court heard yesterday.

Hartland, 21, of St Peter's Road, south Croydon, pleaded guilty to keeping notes made from an official secrets notebook contrary to Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act, 1911. He was jailed for three months.

Mr Peter Hunt, for the defence, said Hartland was torn between his desire to be in the navy and revenge against the Service which had thrown him out. There was no allegation of treachery or espionage.

Mr Allan Green, for the prosecution, said Hartland joined the navy when he was 16. As an able seaman, he was sent in April, 1980, to the navy's shore establishment, HMS Dryad, in Southwick, Hampshire, for a secret course on electronic warfare.

Official notebooks used on the course were secret and were locked in a safe. They were not allowed to be copied or taken away. But Hartland made his own notes which he kept, Mr Green said.

Last year he was dismissed the Service after threatening a leading seaman with an iron bar and served 48 days' detention.

After his release in July he telephoned an officer at Portland naval base mentioning secrets he had learnt on the course and indicated an intention to sell them to an Eastern Block embassy.

Police went to Hartland's home and he took them into the garden and unearthed the notebook. In an earlier call to a naval security establishment he said he was going to approach the Russians with the information, Mr Green said.

Passing sentence, Mr Justice Lloyd told Hartland: "I am satisfied that you never had any real intention of disclosing this information to anyone. The information was not of the most secret and no damage has been done to the state."

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Misleading cases

By a Staff Reporter

Advertisers are making a disturbing number of claims they cannot substantiate, according to the Advertising Standards Authority, (Robert Young writes). The authority says that of 168 complaint investigations concluded in November, 65 were upheld in whole or in part and 15 of the advertisements contained unsubstantiated claims. Another 18 were considered likely to mislead.

A complaint against one of a series of advertisements by the Association of Metropolitan Authorities was upheld. The code of advertising practice does not restrict claims in political advertisements. But a complainant successfully objected that the association should be given an address to which readers could write expressing their views about its campaign against government plans to curb councils' powers to levy rates.

December 1981: A police van burns, solitary symbol of a deeper resistance from the Polish people to the military coup.

How the General sealed up Poland's free trade union

The first confusing month of martial law is put in perspective by Times staff writers in Warsaw and London

The crisis in Poland is now exactly one month old. It has been confused by rumour and speculation intensified by the official censorship. That has now been partially lifted, and this narrative is an attempt to present a clearer perspective of what has been happening since the midnight crackdown of December 12. Roger Boyes of The Times has been in Poland throughout, one of the handful of Western correspondents in beleaguered Warsaw from the beginning. This account compiled by Peter Hopkirk, with assistance from The Times foreign staff, draws heavily on Boyes's unpublished diary. It begins:

Saturday 12th December: Following a loud party (more theories about the death of the Communist party, far chance) and a mediocre dinner to celebrate the opening of the ITN office we hear that Maszyna (Warsaw Solidarity) has been blocked by militia and riot police and phones cut throughout the city. Drive around with Dutch diplomat and we decide it can't possibly be an invasion, just a raid on Solidarity. A few diffuse clues that something more serious afoot but ignore them and go to bed about 3.

Sunday is not a working day, and many Polish families sit up watching late-night television. At 11.45 pm as Boyes was checking the rumours, an announcer broke in abruptly on the Italian comedy film being screened, his voice and face tense. Without explaining why, he told viewers that the station was closing down and that the rest of the film would have to be shown some other time. The screen then went blank. Minutes later Polish radio also went off the air.

General Jaruzelski's men had seized their first objective. With split-second timing they took over the television and radio stations, clearly to preempt any attempt by Solidarity sympathizers in the state-controlled media to try to use them to rally the nation.

At the same time other units were moving through the snow in pre-selected targets throughout Poland. The moment could hardly have been better chosen. Most Poles were at home, and many were asleep. There was little, if any, serious resistance. By midnight troops had ringed Solidarity's headquarters. Security men forced their way in and began to ransack offices and drag out filing cabinets containing crucial data about the movement's organization and membership.

Telephone lines to the building had already been cut to prevent the alarm being raised and other Solidarity cells and leaders alerted. Later the military was to claim that compromising papers had been discovered proving that Solidarity planned to seize power. Millions of Poles were still unaware of what was happening. Those who discovered during the night that their phones had gone dead merely put it down to another failure in the ramshackle system.

Across Poland that night in sub-zero temperatures security men were raiding the homes and offices of leading Solidarity members, intellectuals and other "reformists". But they also arrested six former members of the Politburo including the former Prime Minister Piotr Jaroszewicz and former party leader Edward Gierek. Perhaps it was an attempt to signal to the West that this crackdown was different. The first estimates reaching the outside world of 1,000 arrests his first night were out by 100 per cent. At least double that number were seized and we now know it was only a beginning.

Perhaps the one comic episode in that night of fear surrounds the arrest of a well-known "reformist". When security men arrived at his flat they found him in bed with an Italian girl. He put up fierce resistance to this outrage, receiving injuries during the struggle. This led to widespread reports that he had been brutally treated, and even tortured, by the military.

At 6 am Sunday, the radio came on the air again, and the nation told to stand by for an important announcement. But by now most Poles realized what had happened. They had only to look out of the window to observe the road-blocks and armed patrols.

"Troops everywhere", Boyes noted in his diary. "Most people in state of stunned shock. Girls cry. There is instant recognition that the Polish experiment is over."

At 7 am General Jaruzelski made an emotional broadcast to the nation, declaring it to be under martial law. Poland, he said, had been "pushed to the brink of war" by forces hostile to socialism. The time had now come for "determined actions in the names of supreme necessity". A curfew was to be imposed daily from 10 am to 6 pm, and everyone over the age of 12 required to carry an identity card at all times. His statement was repeated throughout the rest of the day.

Later, when television resumed, it was from studios run by the military, with all the announcers wearing uniform. Boyes recorded: "Chopin, marcia and music and the General, still in his curious opaque glasses, on the screen and radio all day."

Confusion produced its dramas. On the day that martial law was declared, the steel workers of Huta Warszawa — many thousands of them — gathered at the foundry to work out what was going on. They knew that the Solidarity leadership had been rounded up, that 16 months of effort and campaigning had been aborted.

Strike, sit-in and roundups

The strike "organizers" among the most respected in the works, tried to calm them down. More by accident than design, an occupation was declared and the workers began to camp down in the offices of the works. Not until Monday noon was the enterprise manager fully aware of what his obligations were under martial law, the legality or otherwise of a strike. By Monday evening most of the workforce were aware that the 16-page declaration made it clear enough that even the right of assembly was to be suspended. But by then it was too late. Troops and militia had surrounded the works. There were many arrests. Boyes noted in his diary:

First reports percolate through about who picked up. All of Solidarity leadership apart from Bujak (Warsaw Solidarity chief) nabbed in their hotel rooms in Gdansk. Mixed reports about Lech Walesa — that he has been broken down, that he is fine. There are fears among Solidarity members that Walesa, being held incommunicado somewhere in Moscow, will be misled into broadcasting to the nation and appealing for calm. This would be a great propaganda triumph for the military.

In Moscow the crackdown was applauded. But sources insisted that their own troops in Poland would be remaining in barracks. Neighbouring Prague also expressed approval, ac-

cusing the West of playing "a dangerous game with Poland's fate".

With hindsight, Western reaction was slow, considering the scale of events. The Polish General, whether in happy ignorance or from good intelligence, had moved on a weekend which caught every principal foreign policy maker in the American administration out of Washington. President Reagan was week-ending at Camp David; Secretary of State Alexander Haig Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger were in Europe; Presidential counsellor Edwin Meese was on a lecture tour in California. As they

returned to Washington, the State Department announced that it was setting up a special working group to monitor developments.

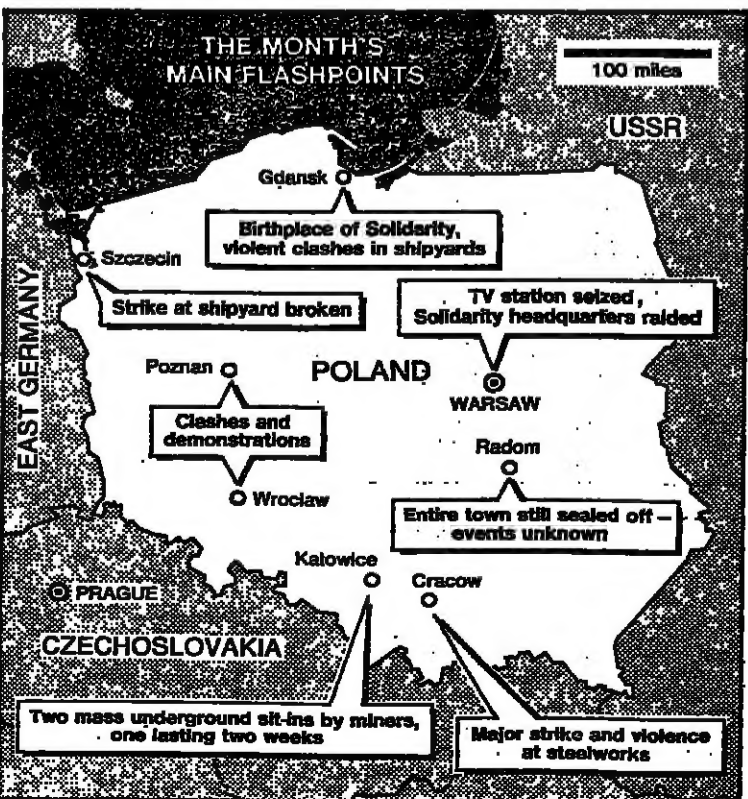
In Europe, in marked contrast to the time when the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan two years ago, senior officials of Nato and the EEC were at their desks from the very beginning and stayed there throughout. Dr. Joseph Luns, Nato Secretary General, discussed with the allies how they would act if Russian tanks crossed into Poland.

Roger Boyes woke up on Monday, December 14, to find himself and Poland isolated:



December 13: General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Communist Party Leader, Prime Minister and Defence Minister announces martial law. He had acted "with a heavy heart". They were not aiming for a military coup. The country was on the edge of the abyss — a phrase everyone took to mean Soviet intervention.

Riot and resistance as the union fights back



The full extent of resistance to General Jaruzelski's junta and his crackdown on Solidarity, to which nearly one third of all Poles belonged, may never be known. This shows the confrontations between workers and security forces during the first month of martial law.

Full scope of proclamation now clear — strikes banned, curfew imposed, newspapers suspended, petrol sales to private cars stopped, impossible to leave the town of residence, summary courts set up, official no-go areas declared. One bizarre decree bans all water sports on the Baltic coast (later it becomes clear why there are two internment centres on the Hel Peninsula). The right of assembly is suspended — no more than 10 people allowed in one room.

Polish friends feel great damned-up sense of resentment at military and stare at them in the streets as they 'man the roadblocks'. Nobody I meet believes the official reason for the takeover.

Reuter, alone of the Western news agencies, had a line open for a few hours that Monday, because cutting it off was technically more complex. Within a few hours, though, the blackout of telex and telephone was complete. Averting a bad international press was, we can now see, only one consideration. The blackout was a crucial part of the Military Council's strategy to smash Solidarity. By this means they were able to isolate, and thus neutralize, those of its leaders who have so far escaped arrest, by preventing them from communicating with one another and acting in concert. Through their total control of the media, especially radio and television — they were able to deny Solidarity any information about what was going on other than their own martial law decrees and communiques.

Boyes in a so-far unpublished dispatch which has reached The Times with the aid of a "pigeon" — a co-operative traveller — remarks:

The pluralism that was the union's initial strength and which has perhaps proved to be its ultimate weakness is still there. It is divisive but it is also keeping the underground spirit alive. Visitors to internment camps Strzebielnek where many of the Solidarity leaders are held say that the men have been holding what is effectively a second Congress in their cells, often tossing their tempers and making passionate rousing speeches as if they were on a public platform addressing three thousand activists.

Interned Solidarity members have started their own magazine called Free Voice, composed by banging the side of cell walls in code, then written down on one piece of paper and distributed during the exercise hours.

Solidarity activists outside had been active, secretly distributing illegal (carrying a ten-year prison sentence) leaflets calling for a nationwide general strike on the Monday, the first working day following the crackdown. The scale of the resistance did not reach the West. There were 199 strikes, by later official admission.

Two of the biggest mass-protests were in the Katowice region, in southern Poland. In one, at the giant Piesar colliery, more than 1,000 coal miners were to spend a fortnight, 2,000 feet underground in protest against the junta and the outlawing of Solidarity. Nearby, down another mine, a similar and equally determined mass sit-in had begun. These sit-ins are fully substantiated, unlike some of the wilder claims of Solidarity — if they did all originate with Solidarity, for some activists accuse the Polish KGB of muddying the waters with false claims intended to discredit them.

Boyes watched the unrest develop:

After some days of sporadic violence around factories and shipyards, the Poles, gear themselves up for the 17th. The anniversary (eleventh) of the Baltic uprisings, that was to have been a day of protest in Warsaw and other cities. Troops and militia move in in strength.

Demonstration around Holy Cross Church. Watch parts of it and am scared by the riot police who seem to have instructions not to shoot but to use their truncheons.

Some of them thump their riot shields to scare the crowd (mainly students as far as I can see, about three hundred). Tear gas canisters shot, retire to hotel and from relative safety watch a second demonstration in Victory Square, as dozens of people try to lay candles at the cross commemorating the late Primate, Cardinal Wysinski, water cannon trucks move in. But not used, thank God — the temperature is minus eighteen and a drizzling could be fatal. Later we hear that demonstrations in Gdansk even worse. Official injury figure — over 300 injured, one dead. Unofficial about threefold-most demonstrators afraid of going to hospital lest they get picked up.

Admissions of bloodshed

On December 17 — day five of the crisis and President Leonid Brezhnev's 75th birthday — the military admitted for the first time that there had been bloodshed. Seven workers had been killed and 39 injured in a clash near Katowice where the two underground sit-ins were in progress. The admission was very likely forced upon them by a claim by Mr. Pierre Mauroy, the French Prime Minister, and quoted on television, that nine people had been killed in clashes and as many as 45,000 arrested. Boyes's diary comments:

Two hundred dead we hear from a traveller, but this is scarcely credible. Impossible to determine any fact. What is certain is that many factories have been resisting in Cracow, Katowice, Lodz, Radom and Wroclaw. The standard tactic seems to be that troops seal off the area, then a short pause, only hours sometimes — in which the workers are given the opportunity to leave. Finally tanks batter down the factory gates and riot police and militia go in to do the dirty work.

How dirty this work really is, nobody knows, though people are unquestionably beaten. Will they ever be able to get the workers to work again? Official terminology is that the factories are "pacified" (nasty echoes of other wars — the Poles now talk openly about 'before the war', meaning before December 13.)

When the huge, worker-occupied Lenin shipyard at Gdansk was finally "pacified", armoured vehicles were first used to smash down barricades before the protesters were flushed out with tear gas and baton charges. According to eye-witnesses the final assault, we then learn, was made to the accompaniment of the amplified recorded voices of women and children screaming with fear, which had a devastating effect on the defenders. A total of 164 workers and 162 members of the security forces, according to a government source, were injured during the fighting.

On December 18 the West German Bundestag passed a resolution called for the release of all detainees, the lifting of martial law and a return to dialogue with "reform-minded and patriotic forces" meaning the Church and Solidarity. Chancellor Helmut Schmidt made a speech warning against Soviet interference which, he was later to use in Washington as his defence against the American charge of weakness. The United States itself, after its inaction, has begun to growl if now actually bite. It threatened to suspend all future food shipments to Poland, provoking a personal phone call to President Reagan from the Pope appealing for food not to be cut off.

The Polish military rulers were increasingly anxious about reaction abroad. Boyes noted:

Officials seem to be getting the message that international not popular in the west. Some official estimates being drawn up — 5,000 — though they seem ludicrously low at this stage, most Polish friends seem to know at least one person who has been picked up, some of them wearing little more than pyjamas. A Government spokesman said last night that work in the camps was voluntary "to break up the monotony of the day" and that some of those picked up might have forgotten to pack warm clothing, internment no worse than that imposed on Japanese citizens in America after Second World War was declared. Does he believe this? Most of the listening journalists nod.

Censorship extremely crude. Write on internet, presenting both sides of the case (that of Government versus the Church) and only the Government view remains. One colleague wrote: "Situation is calm apart from persistent reports of localised violence and widespread labour unrest". The sentence was cut after three words. We decide to protest but officials who two weeks ago were giving us more or less true rumours now refuse to speak. Everyone is very scared. Informers have come out of the woodwork.

Around this time conflicting stories began to spread about the plight of Lech Walesa. One official source, obviously intent on damaging his reputation among his followers and admirers (the vast majority of Poles), described him as "broken psychologically and weeping". On the other hand, Church sources who had seen him, said he was in good health but held in isolation in a Government-owned villa outside Warsaw.

Boyes's recently received pigeon report says that three factors were helping Solidarity to stay alive. Walesa's silence was the best possible backbone for activists still at large; he appeared to be insisting that he would only negotiate in the company of his full committee. Secondly, the Church was unofficially helping Solidarity regroup. Against the explicit advice of the bishops, parish priests were allowing union members to meet in churches sometimes in vestries.

Finally, summary trials of strike organizers began to prove an important rallying point for supporters when they were open to the public.

Archbishop Józef Glemp of the Primate of Poland and his fellow bishops just before Christmas smuggled a message to the West declaring that the Polish people were being terrorised by military force. The Pope's special envoy Archbishop Luigi Poggi came and went. Catholicism was not the only religion under pressure. The Christmas issue of the Communist party newspaper in Szczecin carried a lengthy article on the trouble created in Poland by Jews since 1947. Anti-Semitic graffiti appeared on walls along Nowy Swiat, one of Warsaw's main shopping streets. On Christmas Eve Boyes went to midnight mass in Warsaw's old town:

A depressing affair. Poggi delivers the sermon, Glemp's message read out. The young are disappointed that the church is not being tougher on the martial council (now nicknamed the crow, because the initials of the military council Wroclaw spell out the birds name.)

Christmas for the Polish people was their bleakest by far since the grim days of the Second World War. Apart from the impossibility of sending gifts or greetings to friends or family living elsewhere in Poland, there were also the

Saddest trial that of Lipski looking very ill.

The silence of a 'burnt-out' Walesa still holds the key

By Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Jan 12

Four weeks without a public utterance from Mr Lech Walesa: a scarcely credible state of affairs for those who have seen the sharp-tongued Solidarity leader in action. Often only seconds divide thought from speech, though he is capable too of long sullen silences.

In the past month, Mr Walesa's silence has become Solidarity's most important weapon. After the declaration of martial law, rumours clustered around Mr Walesa. He was reported to be isolated and disorientated. The great fear among other Solidarity members was that he would be deluded into making a television appeal for calm to the nation. That would have implicitly legitimized the military authorities and given them a direct link to the working population.

But instead there was silence. It became evident this week that this was still profoundly disturbing for the Government. Mr Walesa is largely irrelevant, that a new workers' association, a new depoliticized Solidarity could be formed without him, that he is a burnt-out case, that he knows nothing, that it is not worth talking to him. As usual, the Government protested. Mr Walesa knows that if the Government starts saying that it is not worth talking to somebody then that is because somebody is refusing to talk to the Government. This is dialectical training.

Mr Walesa is pivotal to Government plans. He is not just a union chief, he is an international symbol for the renewed Poland and as such it is crucial to the standing of the new leadership that Mr Walesa is seen publicly to accept martial law. Mr Walesa, however, talks to the Church, talks to his local Gdansk parish priest, talks to his wife, Danuta, but does not talk at all either to the military council or the party. He is under house arrest in Konstancin outside Warsaw in a comfortable house with colour television and other facilities. Outside there are many troops and a few armoured personnel carriers.

Why is Mr Walesa holding out? Some clues came in an interview given after the Solida-

city national congress in September during which he beat off a challenge for the chairmanship from Mr Andrzej Gwiazda, one of the union's leading ideologists. Mr Marjan Jurczyk (soon to face trial) and Mr Jan Rulewski, a radical, all three are interned. The interview made clear that like the movement he represents, he has great stamina. He was a member of a strike committee during the 1970 troubles, and after his involvement in the 1976 unrest he lost his job in the shipyards where he worked as an electrician.

"Someone could say that because Christ was crucified, he lost. But he has been winning for 2,000 years. The fact that I lose today because someone breaks my jaw or hangs me, does not mean I have lost," he said.

His critics in Solidarity had gathered strength in the months between the Solidarity congress and the declaration of martial law. Above all his was being accused of a dictatorial leadership style and of taking decisions without having talked them through beforehand with the coordinating committee. But in the week before martial law, after a large-scale police action against a student sit-in at the Warsaw University of Technology, he was beginning to face a choice between being a voice of moderation and being a unifying force.

It was thus a rather different Mr Walesa who was picked up by the police in Gdansk on a Saturday night, a man who was impatient with the quibbling and who was willing to push the Government hard for whatever the union deemed necessary. Now after a month of detention, Mr Walesa may have moved even further in this direction: again his silence seems to bear testimony to this and it is a great encouragement to the 10 million Solidarity members, many of whom are now being forced to reinforce their membership in order to keep their jobs.

Mr Walesa is insisting that he will negotiate with the Government only if he is joined by his full presidency. That was initially interpreted by observers as a sign of insecurity but in fact it is a clever tactical move. First, if the Government agreed to do this it would formally have to recognize the legitimate right of Solidarity to exist and function as a union; second, as most of the presidency is internal, it would mean the unravelling of the Government's internment policy.

Now it is understood that most of the presidency have been moved from Gdansk to an internment centre near Warsaw. Whether this represents the first step towards a government concession is not clear. One thing is certain: Mr Walesa is not going to say anything. "I see two Poland," he said in an interview, "I see the one I dream of and at the same time I see the present Poland beset with difficulties. I see the game each side plays. I see the variants of those games. But I am — we are — capable of winning every single variant of every game."

Solidarity's leaders are under arrest: supporters look through the broken glass and wire of the sealed headquarters building hoping for information. There was none. Silence was a key military weapon.

Saddest trial that of Lipski, looking very ill...

Continued from page 4

fears of those with relatives or friends in detention camps. Even in 1944 during the Warsaw uprising when half the city was burning the telephones were still working, those with long memories pointed out. Now, even if a child was dying, it was impossible to summon help or an ambulance except on foot.

It was a bleak Christmas for the martial-law troops also as they manned often isolated road-blocks in sub-zero temperatures for many hours at a stretch, with few people willing to talk with them. Bitterness towards the military in some places was now running so high that even their families found themselves ostracized. White crosses — the sign of the Untouchable — were daubed on the homes of some, according to reliable sources in Warsaw. On the other hand there were some reports of workers and martial law troops fraternising, though it is uncertain which way sympathies were running.

Eight thousand tonnes of beef, originally intended as a Christmas gift for the people of Poland from the EEC, was cancelled at the eleventh hour lest it be used to brighten the Christmas dinner tables of the military. However, a steady flow of medical supplies and other necessities, including baby milk, blankets and winter shoes, continued to cross the border into Poland, much of it driven overland by voluntary organizations in the West.

There were fewer food shortages than expected during the Christmas period. Boyes notes in his diary:

"Enough food thanks partly to deliveries from East Germany and the Soviet Union which almost miraculously turned up within days of the declaration of martial law. Clear enough evidence that the fraternal neighbours were consulted beforehand, rather undermining the official version that the decision on the crackdown was taken within hours of Solidarity deciding at Gdansk that it would press for free local elections."

Nobody gets drunk any more because one has to leave parties at 10.30 to make it back before the curfew except Christmas and New Year's Eve when curfew is lifted. After both days got hold of Solidarity bulletin obviously distributed in brief breathing space.

Solidarity leaders who had managed to evade arrest — some 30 per cent it is thought — had been rethinking their tactics. From southern Poland leaflets began to circulate secretly advising Poles on how to cause maximum industrial chaos with the minimum risk.

For a start they warned workers not to elect new leaders. This would make them vulnerable to immediate arrest. Instead, a policy of passive protest should be followed. "Work slowly, follow 'ridiculous instructions' to the letter, harass the military and the commissars with questions, complain and behave like a half-wit," was their advice.

It appears that industrial resistance, whether active or passive, was already successfully sabotaging production, as the authorities have admitted to a sharp decline in production following the imposition of martial law. Even tanks, as Lech Walesa had long ago pointed out, could not force men to work if they were unwilling.

But even if the military council could not force Poles to work, it was determined to obliterate every trace of Solidarity. Defiant posters were torn down again and again, but trade union supporters continued to replace them with fresh ones. It was forbidden to wear a Solidarity badge, but members continued to flaunt them, though with the forbidden name scratched off and only the Polish flag visible. Even empty bulletin boards bearing the movement's name were ripped down by the military, although in a Warsaw laundrette one still survives intact behind the door with a sombre black ribbon draped over it to signify mourning. And the trials began.

The trials begin in earnest. Great pomp about Szczepanski (former chairman of radio and tv) whose trial for corruption government anxious to advertise. Trick is to get special court entry ticket for Szczepanski then dive into neighbouring courtroom where several strike organisers on trial. See Wajda (the film director) at the Huta Warszawa steel strike "Trial" — which relief as there persistent rumour that he keeping low profile or may even broadcast to the nation calling for calm etc. That seems to be wrong. (He mutters loudly from the public gallery about the prosecutor and is clearly happy when prosecution witnesses suddenly start saying nice things about the defendants. Hear that his wife is involved in the relief operation for internment at St. Martin's church. Sadistic trial that of Lipski (historian and dissident) who looking very pale, very ill. Court doctor says he fit enough to stand trial but I wonder.

The miners come up

Gradually now the strikes (as opposed to passive resistance) were being broken one by one by the military, either by force or depriving the protesters of food, light and heating. This was the tactic which forced out the 1,000 or so miners who for two long weeks defied the authorities 2,000 feet below ground at the Blachy. Hungry and weary they finally came to the surface on December 28 and 12 of their leaders were arrested. Officials claimed that the men there and at another pit had been forcibly kept down the mine by a small group of "strong-arm men from Solidarity". The last of the major strikes had been broken.

But if the military grip was effective the impression was now growing among some analysts that Jaruzelski and his fellow generals did not know what to do next. They were having to beg for money from the West. And they had lost the battle for the hearts and minds of ordinary Poles.

So deep was the disillusionment of Poles now that hundreds, later thousands, of Communist Party members were tearing up their cards in protest. In some factories it was reported, additional litter bins had to be provided to cope with the deluge. Simultaneously the purges began in Party, factories and offices. "There are only careerists and Stalinists left in the party," one disenchanted official was quoted as saying, while some analysts had already begun to suspect that show trials were an preparation for senior party officials who could be used as scapegoats. On January 8, Boyes observes:

Nina, wife of an American correspondent here, asks me to marry a Polish friend of hers to get her out of the country. Even Poles with passports unable to leave country at moment. Rumours that some sort of verification procedure will be introduced to decide who can leave and who can't. I hum and haw, see impressive photo, and say I'll think about it.

Sniff around the church and the charities. There seems to be prospect of some movement on internment but nobody wants to put money on it. Church gained terrific ground since Christmas — the combination of Vatican plus echo in Western Europe which makes the Council think the West is serious about internment. Now that US has dropped out of the equation, the government needs Germany and the others more than ever. Church benefiting from the linkage and pushing Gov. much harder.

After four weeks of martial law, almost all of Poland's institutions have lost their standing, either by design or miscalculation. The military have tarnished their White Knight image. The Communist Party is rarely seen and never heard. Solidarity, once a major social force, has been reduced to underground status. But the Catholic Church has emerged from these troubled weeks both stronger and more popular, challenging the Military Council, first in discreet tones, then, over the past seven days, with increasing volume. And so far, the Church is the only institution to produce results. It has held the population back from bloodshed and at the same time it has brought the Government to the brink of releasing significant numbers of internees.

Four weeks after the coup there are still large areas of uncertainty. Censorship has officially ended but dispatches are seen by censors and travel is restricted. The Polish Government has rarely been frank about popular uprisings. Even now, ten years later, it is not clear whether in 1970 there were 45 victims in the Baltic unrest. The versions of truth in contentious areas can now, however, be compared and to some extent judged:

1. The Government claims that several miners were killed in the pacification of the Wujek mine in Silesia. The most reliable, unofficial report says that 14 were killed. This is based on relatives' testimony that was passed to Solidarity.

2. The Government claims that some Solidarity extremists were holding over 1,000 miners and their relatives hostage, threatening to blow them up. Reliable unofficial reports say that the miners occupied the shaft, their wives and children brought food and then stayed. Explosive charges were placed for that reason. Militia then attempted to storm the mine, the miners took hostages (two or three women) and demanded that the local radio broadcast their demands, which included the suspension of martial law. It is not clear whether these demands were

ever broadcast or how the mine was finally cleared.

3. The Government claims that over 300 were injured in Gdansk on December 17 and one person subsequently died of his injuries. A Gdansk doctor consulted by a Western diplomat testifies to at least two deaths as a direct result of the demonstration. One reliable report says that many of the injuries to demonstrators were caused by people jumping off the Gdansk flyover when armoured personnel carriers drove into the middle of a crowd.

4. In total, the Government admits to eight deaths. But there are significant gaps in its presentation. It has never for example, elaborated on militia and military deaths, presumably because these are military or state secrets. At least one unofficial report — from somebody working in a hospital — has spoken of two bodies being brought into a Bydgoszcz hospital, one of an officer who had died of stab wounds, the other had been shot.

5. It is clear that in areas where the militia and troops were expecting trouble they reacted in a far tougher way than on other occasions. In Gdansk, in the Silesian mines, both serious trouble spots, the riot police were evidently on edge and reacted accordingly, with force and by most accounts with some brutality. Some crises have simply been wiped off the face of history. In Radom it was reliably reported that an ammunition factory had been occupied and was surrounded by troops. But the end of the saga has never been heard.

6. The general conclusion seems to be that there were considerably more deaths than admitted by the authorities — perhaps 12, perhaps 20, perhaps more. But estimates reaching the west of 200 or 54 deaths or 27 in Warsaw alone, all seem to be exaggerated. The Government has not made it easy to deny these rumours, and there may indeed have been some catastrophic shooting incident but there has yet to be a reliably sourced report to that effect.

As the first month of martial law ends large scale Warsaw Fact manoeuvres are due to take place, close to Poland's southern border. They carry the ironic code name "Friendship 82". Boyes' diary closes by acknowledging some "superficial tokens" of a thaw. "But the soldiers are still there, friends and relatives are still missing and the old trust will never come back. Truly, it has become a land of crushed souls."



Different responses in the West. President Reagan, who gave a strong lead, gave political asylum to the Polish Ambassador Romuald Spasowski and his wife Wanda "I am proud," said the President, "to be with a very courageous man and woman having acted on the highest of principle."

The General is facing the limits of military muscle

Poland's military leadership has been irreverently compared to an elderly oil tanker that once under way needs a week to change direction. Creaking with the strain of movement, the military vessel is shifting its course, a laboured and potentially dangerous manoeuvre. The Military Council for National Salvation has had to come to terms with its limitations. It can pacify factories but it cannot get them to work. It can urge greater productivity, but it cannot supply sufficient fuel and raw materials. It can raise food prices but it cannot guarantee that food production will increase.

Military logistics were sufficient for the first 48 hours of the take over, but now, after four weeks, force and discipline are no longer enough.

This realization has prompted the Military Council to think about how to recreate Solidarity. The only organization trusted by the workers. Recreate, of course, is not quite what the Government has in mind: rather it wants a transformed organization that can act as a spokesman nominally for the workers, and thus legitimize price rises, agree to the Council's severely revised concept of economic reform, and be in the true Marxist fashion, a transmission belt of ideas, requests and directives (the greatest of these being directives) from management to worker.

Attacks on intellectuals

The Council would have liked to achieve this as soon as all labour unrest had been quelled in the first week of January. But there are two great obstacles. First, would the new form of Solidarity, a politically neutered Solidarity, be acceptable without Lech Walesa? The answer seems to be no, though there are persistent rumours (perhaps Government inspired) that he will be freed soon from house arrest.

The second problem is that if the new Solidarity is to be created in the Government image it must throw off the radical ballast — the students and the intellectuals. The intellectuals are already being discredited in regular newspaper and media attacks, a campaign that may sooner or later be supplemented by a televised trial.

The government will not get Church assistance in such an enterprise and certainly not if internment continues. Yet somehow it has to persuade the workers to form an acceptable organization. That is the true

change of course: the Council is having to focus on negotiation or at least the right forum for negotiation. Two immediate problems facing the Council illustrate the situation.

First, the government is worried about how to legitimize the impending round of food price rises, likely to be imposed some time in February. In 1970 and 1976 the Polish people took to the streets because of increases in the price of food and the general view here is that martial law will not now be lifted until the increases are safely through. Under the

seeds of a new movement. Term will begin only in February. The NZS has been banned and the authorities say lectures will start only on the strictest conditions.

A military communique issued on Monday outlined the new tough regulations and clearly demonstrated the authorities' fear of student unrest sparking off workers' protests. "Students and employees are forbidden to remain on campuses for a longer time than required by class and library hours... students' basic duties include a civil and moral posture... compulsory attendance of all lectures... discipline intensified... rectors have greater power over staff... a system of pre-censorship to be introduced to control all scientific and teaching materials."

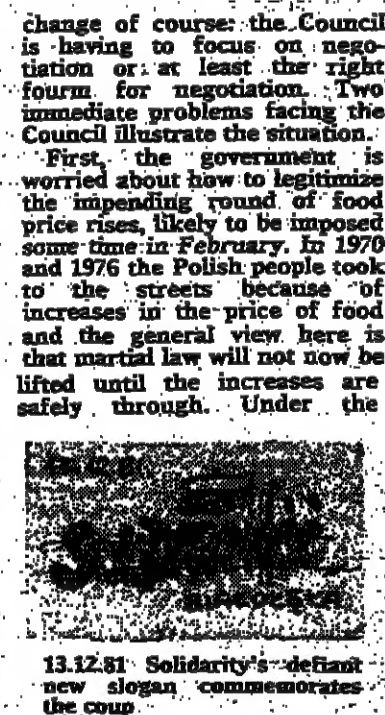
The separation of the students and the intellectuals from the workers is the precondition of a new collaborative union. But where will the government find its new union leadership? Who of the interned Solidarity leaders would be prepared to act in such an organization? It is difficult to see any candidates and there have been no reports of road to Damascus conversions in the internment centres. The only former Solidarity leader to recant publicly has been Mr Marek Brunie, but he has made clear that he wants to return to scientific research.

A pale shadow

The question is, what would a nominal Solidarity organization really achieve? Would it get the farmers to produce more food? Almost certainly not. Without Walesa, without the guidance of the intellectuals, without its socio-political aims, the new Solidarity would be little more than a pale shadow of the old one. Shopfloor frustration and popular frustration with shortages would thus find little outlet.

The old Solidarity was a social movement involving 10 million people: it strove after pluralism and created alternatives to the rigid centralization of the state. Expectations were raised and these will not simply disappear. Poles will reject a recreated union that falls into the mould of Soviet trade unions, specializing in running holiday homes for tired workers.

The government is thus faced with an extraordinary situation: it recognizes its limitations, it recognizes the need to solve problems by talking rather than force. But it has nobody to talk to.



13.12.81 Solidarity's defiant new slogan 'commemorate the coup'

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Greek gives up its aspirations

Athens. — The Greek parliament has eliminated from the written Greek language cumbersome accents and aspiration marks and substituted a "single-accent system."

When the Socialist Government introduced the brief amendment in an Education Bill deputies of New Democracy, the conservative opposition, walked out of the chamber, not because they disagreed with the Government's initiative, but to object to the hasty approach to the problem.

There were no accents in ancient Greek. Three different accents and two aspiration marks were inserted in written Greek by Alexandrian scholars in the Hellenistic times. The accents serve only to stress a syllable and aspirations are purely decorative.

Goukouni wins Sudan pledges

Khartoum. — President Goukouni of Chad has secured a pledge from President Nimeiry of Sudan that he would not allow any activity in Sudan directed against the Chad Government.

In addition, President Nimeiry promised assistance, including food aid, for Chad. He also said that Sudan would reopen its embassy and the Sudanese-Chadian friendship school in Ndjamena, and resume Sudan Airways flights to Chad.

Sudan's cooperation, which was announced during Mr Goukouni's three-day visit to Sudan, is attributed to the replacement of Mr Muhammad Abdul Karim, the Chadian Ambassador — a strong supporter of Chad rebels — with Mr Mouhamoud Adjil, the pro-Goukouni Chargé d'Affaires.

Turkish military to free Ecevit

Brussels. — Mr Bulent Ecevit, the former Turkish Prime Minister who was imprisoned for defying the country's military rulers, will be freed on February 1. News of his release was given to Mr Gaston Thorn, President of the European Commission, during a half-hour meeting in Brussels with Mr Uter Turkmen, the Turkish Foreign Minister.

During the meeting Mr Turkmen also explained in detail the timetable for the promised return to democracy by the Turkish military authorities, starting with a referendum on the constitution in the autumn and parliamentary elections no later than the spring of 1984.

Khmer forces crushed

Bangkok. — The Khmer Rouge have suffered one of their most severe defeats at the hands of the Vietnamese Army since the latter moved into Cambodia in 1975 and the guerrilla war began. The attack on a forward supply base near the borders of Laos, Cambodia and Thailand, not only cost the Khmer Rouge heavy casualties but seriously disrupted supplies for their forces in north-east Cambodia and for the resistance movement in southern Laos.

China's oasis of space technology

Peking. — China has a modern space centre at Jiuquan, located in a desert region of the northern Gansu province bordering on outer Mongolia. The English-language *China Daily* said. The newspaper said that all Chinese satellites had been launched from this centre, described as an oasis of modern technology in the desert. It said construction of the centre had started in the 1950s.

Police kill four at cockfight fracas

Delhi. — Police shot dead at least four spectators at a cockfight near Hyderabad after the crowd attacked them. The police had gone to the scene to investigate reports of gambling on the cockfight. An inquiry has been ordered.

Toulouse-Lautrec paintings stolen

Toulouse. — Six Toulouse-Lautrec paintings valued at 600,000 francs (about £80,000) were stolen from the museum named after the artist at Albi, near here.

Haiti coup attempt

Port de Paix, Haiti. — The Haitian authorities captured three of eight men who landed on Tortuga Island and in an apparent attempt to topple the government of President Jean-Claude Duvalier.

Mass wedding

Peking. — In a collective ceremony 696 couples were married in Tianjin, 85 miles east of Peking. Afterwards the couples planted trees in response to a recent appeal by the Prime Minister.



Mr Alexander Haig tells reporters that he feels comfortable over the Nato declaration.

Haig warns Nato that deeds count, not words

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Jan 12

Failure by the West to take positive action over Poland would not only assist the repression of the Polish people but would diminish confidence in the Western reaction to future events throughout the world. Mr Alexander Haig, the United States Secretary of State, said in Brussels today.

"We stand at the crossroads," he said. "Do we want a world characterized by growing freedom, cooperation and security, or increasing repression, confrontation and fear? Are we going to see nations acting to help to expand liberty and peace, or will international change be dominated by totalitarian forces?"

Poland was a test case. "We must ultimately ask ourselves what these developments mean for our self-respect if we do not respond together. The West is often accused of being merely a collection of consumer societies. Are we so satiated and intimidated that we fear to defend the values that make life worth living?"

Events in Poland should remind the West that "in the battle for the minds of men, the best arguments are to be found on our side."

He justified Western involvement on the ground that the Soviet Union and Poland both signed the Helsinki Final Act in 1975. "The standards of freedom and diversity established at Helsinki have been violated. The process begun at Helsinki has been put in jeopardy. We have both a right and an obligation to point out this danger."

Mr Haig saw the greatest danger to the West today in the tendency to apply double standards to the behaviour of the East and West. What was needed was a demand for moderation on the part of Moscow rather than pressure for improvement in relations with the Soviet Union.

He felt "comfortable" with the declaration agreed yesterday by the Nato Council. But he showed an underlying concern that words might take the place of deeds. "We want real progress, not just empty posturing. Yesterday we created a clear and united

framework for action. Now we must act. If we cannot take steps commensurate with our words, then what shall remain of our self-respect and the respect of others for our values, our rights and our purposes?"

Mr Haig sought to explode the myth about Poland: that Solidarity brought about its own downfall by its militancy, that the Soviet Union was not accountable because it did not intervene directly, that the Polish military leaders acted independently out of national considerations; and that the West should not intervene in an internal affair. These myths, he said, were belied by the reality.

The truth was that "Poland today exemplifies the historic failure of Soviet-style communism to produce either bread or freedom."

He justified Western involvement on the ground that the Soviet Union and Poland both signed the Helsinki Final Act in 1975. "The standards of freedom and diversity established at Helsinki have been violated. The process begun at Helsinki has been put in jeopardy. We have both a right and an obligation to point out this danger."

Only once during the question period after his address did Mr Haig appear to lose the evident feeling of satisfaction he had about the firmness of the Nato statement on Poland. Asked by *The Guardian* correspondent about the apparent "double standard" of American attitudes to military rule in Turkey and Poland, he raised his voice for the only time during the press conference.

He accused the correspondent of a memory lapse about the fact that 30 people a day were killed by terrorists before martial law was imposed in Turkey and that there had been a promise by the Turkish Government for a return to democracy. The real double standard was in the question, he said, and that "boggles my mind."

Hothouses are rebuilt in Sinai pull-out protest

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, Jan 12

Tension over Israel's scheduled withdrawal from the remaining one-third of occupied Sinai rose today when militant settlers began rebuilding hothouses due to another group of a new settlement inside Israel's 1967 border.

The latest instance of organized resistance by members of the "Stop the Withdrawal from the Sinai" campaign occurred at one of the 13 agricultural settlements due to be handed over to the Egyptians on April 25. More than 100 protesters began welding together the buildings, having already ploughed the land and replanted fresh crops throughout the night.

According to the state-controlled Israel Radio, troops and police on the spot took no immediate action to interfere with the protest, preferring to await orders from the government. A spokesman for the militants said that the settlers were prepared for a confrontation with the Israeli Army.

Supporters of the protest movement are hard-line

Jewish nationalists, who are opposed to the planned withdrawal for ideological reasons because they regard the area as part of Biblical Israel. They are distinct from another group of settlers, who are threatening violence because they are not satisfied with the compensation terms offered by the government.

Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, today said that his ruling coalition demanded an end to differences over the level of compensation, which has recently been increased by some 20 per cent. He emphasized that the issue involved not only money, but also Israel's obligations under the peace treaty with Egypt.

Mr Shimon Peres, the leader of the opposition Labour Party, said the latest compensation offer — which is still awaiting final approval from the parliamentary finance committee — was scandalous. He demanded the introduction of a Bill which would regulate compensation to the remaining settlers on the basis of a farm for a farm.

Drive to mend Mid-East fences

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Jan 12

The two-day visit to Egypt and Israel by Mr Alexander Haig, the United States Secretary of State, who arrived in Cairo today, has three main objectives: to repair America's fractured relations with Israel, to inject new life into the Palestinian autonomy negotiations and to encourage President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt to maintain similar policies towards the Middle East as those followed by late President Sadat.

America's relations with Israel, which have been tense since the middle of last year, reached a new low last month when the United States suspended its recently negotiated strategic cooperation agreement with Israel after the annexation of the Golan Heights.

Mr Haig was furious when he heard about the Israeli

move — just as the Polish crisis broke out. The suspension of the strategic cooperation agreement was intended to indicate to Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, just how strongly America disapproved of Israel's action.

Mr Begin retaliated by publicly accusing the United States of trying to treat Israel as a vassal state and saying that the suspension of the agreement was tantamount to its cancellation. His remarks to the American ambassador in Israel were among the strongest ever directed at an American envoy by the leader of a friendly country.

The Americans are anxious to patch up the quarrel and there are signs that Mr Begin is as keen. President Reagan sent Mr Begin a friendly

"What are we coming to in this country?" Mrs Gandhi asked in Parliament when she learnt that police in the state of Bihar had blinded men with acid and needles. What they are coming to in Bihar is the conclusion that it is better to kill people than to blind them. It causes less trouble.

The Prime Minister's pained cry reflected the anguish and shame that many feel about the brutalities inherent in India's system of justice and order. But the revulsion felt in Delhi and elsewhere was not matched here in Bihar. What conventions and decency that there were had been eroded long ago.

Bihar's troubles lie in challenges to an ancient order in recent years. Rights and land legislation and other measures designed to help the poor low castes and Harijans (the lowest group) have threatened the ascendancy of the upper castes.

Tension has grown as the poor have demanded their rights and have been resisted. In the past 20 years many policemen have been recruited as allies of upper-

caste politicians in the fight against change. Order has deteriorated and banditry has grown. At the same time the means of public service have been damaged as politics and administration have become the province of men on the make.

The distortions of life in Bihar led people to support the policemen who blinded prisoners awaiting trial. There was anger when the victims were compensated. The teachers' union leader said: "The trend now is to kill criminals in encounters. It is less trouble than blind."

Mr Jagannath Mishra, the Chief Minister, is not responsible for Bihar's nightmare, but he is a leading character in it. He presides over a region of dishonesty and inefficiency. Last year members of his own party took a memorandum to Mrs Gandhi saying that Mr Mishra's name was synonymous with corruption and nepotism and that he had made money the basis of Bihar politics.

In a Patna high court corruption case in 1978, the

judge said: "If the Chief Minister (Mr Mishra) can take a bribe, why should not other members of the cabinet and other high-caste leaders do the same?"

Mr Mishra comes from a rich, high-caste family. As a politician he is a creature of Mrs Gandhi, and candidly said so in a recent interview. "I enjoy the confidence of the electorate as long as I enjoy the confidence of Mrs Gandhi. On corruption, he said: 'Where is there no corruption? It is part of national life.'"

A well-documented expose of the plight of labourers on the Bihar railways showed that men were earning 120 a day, less than half the legal minimum. Mr Mishra called the report baseless. But the contempt that landowners have for legal and human standards among the poor.

In a village near Patna people told me they were organizing to fight the oppression of these peasants and the molestation of their women by police and the landowners' goondas (thugs), but they seemed hopelessly ill-equipped.

A boy of seventeen said that last October the police,

in retaliation for a protest, came to his village and arrested 128 people. When the police opened fire and killed two of them, he was hit in the arm. A doctor wanted £118 to amputate it and the boys' parents sold more than half of their land to raise the money.

A social scientist in Patna said: "There is now a total breakdown of order. The poor do not get what they are entitled to. As their frustration grows, the State will be torn by increasing violence."

Almost every week the papers carry a fresh crop of horrors: men being kept in jail without hope of trial; kidnappings; abortion; police fire at innocent people; how pay encourages bribe-taking and the State Government itself is unable when its own pay commission seeks information.

In his office Mr Mishra framed a motto by Mrs Gandhi: "The needs of the many must prevail over those of the few." In Bihar, like much else, this sentiment has been turned upside down.

An ancient order declines into chaos

From Trevor Fishlock, Patna, Jan 12

Rome raids reveal no Dozier link

From Peter Nichols, Rome, Jan 12

Hopes of a direct connection between arrests at the weekend of suspected terrorists in Rome and the kidnapping of Brigadier General James Dozier were deflated today.

First reports had suggested that one of the women arrested here early on Saturday morning had had the task of trying to negotiate differences between the Rome Red Brigades column and the northern group responsible for kidnapping the American general.

Later reports state that she was not after all in possession of a draft agreement supposedly intended to be the basis for joint action between the two wings.

General Dozier is in the hands of the Red Brigades group regarded as more militaristic. The alleged head of the more political wing, Signor Giovanni Senzani, was arrested in Rome on Saturday. He is believed to be responsible for organizing at least three kidnappings and two killings.

There remains the possibility that another woman arrested in Rome on Saturday, Giuseppina Delogu, suspected of belonging to the Sardinian column of the Red Brigades, had been in the Veneto area a month ago again in an attempt at mediation.

Investigators believe that General Dozier is being held in or near Verona on the grounds that the Red Brigades keep their prisoners in heavily-populated areas where new faces pass unnoticed.



Mario Tuti, a suspected right-wing terrorist, arrives in court at Bologna.

Russia fears arms talks will fail

From Michael Binyan, Moscow, Jan 12

The Russians today questioned American good faith in the Geneva arms talks as they resumed today and displayed growing nervousness that the United States might break off negotiations because of the Polish crisis.

Tass news agency commentary today said the New Year break in the talks had produced American statements raising justified doubts about Washington's wish to achieve concrete results. It quoted an American report that the talks were referred to in Washington as "Christmas trills".

Tass repeated the Soviet line that the Americans were negotiating only as a camouflage to secure employment of their new missiles in Europe.

The Russians have been relieved that so far the Geneva talks have been isolated from American reaction over Poland.

Yaroslav Nato statement will cast a shadow over the negotiations, and the Russians are worried that the tough American line appears to be gaining ground among European governments. *Kommunisticheskaya Pravda*, a youth newspaper, today urged its readers to appeal directly to Nato ministers and generals to halt what it called the reckless arms race they were imposing on the world.

The paper included a cut-

out form, written in English and addressed to the alliance's Brussels headquarters, which was to be sent as a postcard. On behalf of Soviet youth, it called for an end to the outrageous arms race for power and imperial ambitions threatening mankind, and a constructive dialogue on disarmament.

□ Geneva: The United States and the Soviet Union today quietly resumed the negotiations on reducing intermediate-range nuclear missiles (Alan McGregor writes). In front of only a few cameras, the delegation leaders, Mr Paul Nitze and Mr Yuri Kvitsinsky, shook hands and exchanged greetings.

The two sides, 12 members each, sat down at the long table in the United States mission top-floor conference room. The atmosphere was as businesslike as at the outset of the negotiations — the first between Moscow and Washington under the Reagan administration — on November 30.

So seemingly oblivious are the delegates to the working in the political heat over Poland, that it is said they give the impression of men confronted by some fearful menace from another planet, a not inappropriate comparison for the threat of thermonuclear annihilation on this one.

Le Monde democracy founders

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Jan 12

The difficulty of electing a newspaper by direct suffrage of the staff is demonstrated by the latest twist in the long and involved saga of *Le Monde's* attempts to do so.

The Association of Journalists of the paper, about 200 people, who all have shares and a blocking vote in the company that publishes it, failed last night to elect M Claude Julien, the newspaper's editor, as *Le Monde* Diplomatist the only remaining candidate, as successor to M Jacques Fenner, who retires at the end of this year as editor-in-chief. He received only 60 per cent of the votes cast, receiving only just over 40 per cent.

Now, after 16 months of complicated manoeuvres and repeated votes to select the new editor-in-chief, the journalists have to start all over again. An informal general assembly of the editorial writers has been called for January 19, but it is probable that if it fails to produce a solution, the other editorial, clerical and printing branches of the staff will have more of a say.

M Julien, whose candidature for the past year has deeply divided the journalists because of his strong personality and press views, has succeeded in eliminating all the other candidates, including M Jacques Amalric, head of the newspaper's foreign department.

In June 1980 M Julien won more than the 60 per cent vote, but last autumn the controversy over his name was revived by a succession of incidents, including one in which he accused a reporter of "bleeding". After an investigation, the reporter was exonerated. As a result, confidence in M Julien was undermined, and the journalists decided that he must submit to one further ballot, which turned against him last night.

Whoever finally emerges as editor-in-chief will have to face up to the serious psychological and economic difficulties which the newspaper is going through. The first are due to the national victory of the left last May, which *Le Monde* acclaimed,

Miss Kitson may see jailed father

By David Cross

Miss Amanda Kitson, the 19-year-old daughter of one of South Africa's few white members of the banned African National Congress (ANC), is planning to take the place of her arrested brother in visiting her father in the security jail in Pretoria.

At a press conference in London yesterday, Miss Kitson said she was very frightened that she might be arrested after visiting her father, as her 25-year-old brother, Steven, had been last Thursday. "But I want to reassure my father about Steven. There are very few people who can see him in prison," she said.

Her father, Mr David Kitson, aged 62, who has dual British and South African nationality, has been in prison since 1964 serving a 20-year sentence for sabotage in his son and his daughter, who both have British passports, have visited him regularly around Christmas for many years.

But last week after visiting his father, Steven was arrested apparently on the suspicion that he might be planning to help his father to escape. His friends have said that he sketched two little drawings in the white waiting to see his father. He apparently did this quite openly and did not try to conceal the doodles when approached by a prison warder.

The South African police have since detained three other whites, one of whom, Mr Michael Jenkins, is the brother of a fugitive from Pretoria prison.

Yesterday, Mrs Norma Kitson, David's wife, said it was ridiculous for anyone to believe her son had been trying to rescue her husband. "He would not jeopardize the last three years of his father's sentence. He's not a fool," she said. No member of her family knew of her son's arrest in the past few days.

She claimed that her son's detention was another attempt to break the spirit of her husband as the South African authorities had been trying to do throughout the 17 years of his detention.

Peking protests at planes sale

From David Bonavia, Peking, Jan 12

China has protested to the United States about President Reagan's decision to sell certain military aircraft and aviation technology to Taiwan.

Today the Foreign Ministry issued a statement that highest American officials were in Peking to discuss this issue, and that China could not accept any "unilateral decisions" by the United States.

The tone of the statement, however, was mild, indicating Peking's strong desire to continue to improve its relations with the United States.

Observers are baffled by the timing of the American announcement, which at best seems to be ill-mannered, considering the talks in progress with Mr John Holdridge, the Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian Affairs and a leading expert on the Far East.

However, the Chinese may draw some satisfaction from the fact that the United States will be selling Taiwan aircraft parts and technology only to keep its present air force up to date, rather than to make major improvements in the form of the most advanced American jet fighters.

□ Taipei: Taiwan said today that it took exception to the American decision and maintained that Peking still intended subjugating the island by force.

Mintoff accuses Times of 'very deep injury'

From George Sammis, Valletta, Jan 12

In a letter to Signor Flaminio Piccoli, general secretary of the Italian Christian Democratic Party, Mr Dom Mintoff, Prime Minister of Malta, has referred to a "very deep injury" inflicted on his party by *The Times* and the BBC.

According to Signor Piccoli, "heaping calumny on me personally and on the Socialist Party of Malta," he said: "You hope that whoever was responsible for the grave mistake of refusing permission to Signor Mintoff to visit Malta to see me, will be severely punished."

Mr Mintoff asked Signor Piccoli to come to Malta for a discussion on television so that he could substantiate his accusations against Malta's Socialist Government. "An early public debate is, I feel, vital for the continuation of good relations between our two countries, that should you find it embarrassing or inconvenient to visit us, I would be prepared to come to Rome myself."

Salisbury told to look south

From Stephen Taylor, Salisbury, Jan 12

The Zimbabwe Government has been urged by a leading economist to agree to negotiations with South Africa on renewing the preferential trade agreement between the two countries.

Coming from Mr Roger Riddell, who headed the government's administration of inquiry into incomes and prices, the call was believed to reflect government thinking that given the opportunity the pact must be extended even though it is politically unpalatable.

Mr Riddell, chief economist of the Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries, said that if the agreement was allowed to expire in March, Zimbabwe could lose up to £50m (£50m) in lost exports which in turn would put about 6,500 people out of work.

South Africa, which last year announced its intention to abrogate the pact but has since indicated a willingness

Rawlings names council for Ghana

Accra, Jan 12. — Flamingo, a party Rawlings who seized power in Ghana 15 days ago, today named a group of soldiers and civilians to help him run the country.

The Provisional National Defence Council set up by "J" is he is popularly known here, so far has four military men and three civilians, including a radical Catholic priest who was a unionist and a student leader, according to the *Ghanaian Daily Times* today.

A council statement, published by the paper and broadcast by Radio Accra, named Brigadier General Joseph Ninsin-Mensah as chief of defence staff. He was retired more than two years ago by Mike Limann, the ousted President. The Brigadier is widely respected among the ranks of the armed forces and was reinstated by Flight Lieutenant Rawlings as council chairman and quoted him as saying that membership was "not for those who have the souls of slaves or who are not capable of crying out human suffering or when a child dies."

Other soldiers were Warant Officer Joseph Adjei Ruedi and Sergeant Daniel Aducci Akata-Pore, neither of whom is well known. They were not members of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council set up by Flight Lieutenant Rawlings when he first took power in June 1979.

In October of the same year he handed power back to President Hilla Limann, who was democratically elected. Since the latest coup he has suspended the constitution, dissolved parliament, banned political parties and dismissed Dr Limann's administration.

Warant Officer Ruedi has been appointed council coordinator for the armed forces defence committees which have been set up to run in tandem with the council and Sergeant Akata-Pore is secretary to these committees.

The civilians appointed to the council, which can have up to 11 members are Father Vincent Damiani, a civilian leader, and Chris Sukiri Aducci, a radical student leader.

The new authorities have started to address the country's pressing economic problems and have renewed diplomatic relations with Libya. — Reuters.

□ There is no sign yet of any resistance to the council here in the Ghanaian capital (Godfrey Morrison writes from Accra). But security remains tight, with armed soldiers still at public buildings. And a curfew lasting from eight pm to five am remains in force.

At least 125 people have been detained, including Dr Limann and his deputy and 20 of the 26 ministers from the former government.

THE ARTS

Theatre

Roué's confession

La Ronde

Aldwych

It is no great praise to describe John Barton's production of *La Ronde* as much better than last week's lamentable Manchester version. That much could have been achieved simply by returning the piece to its proper place and time, as Mr Barton has done.

Let there be any mistake, Timothy O'Brien's stage is surrounded by an Olympian set of baroque lovers, limbs entwined beneath voluminous draperies, aloofly stationed above their human counterparts, who change partners to Gillian Lynne's pretty choreographed entr'actes, copulate to a recurring *valse triste*, pull rank through costume, and otherwise carry out the eternal moves in the mating game amid the cosy briars and copious food-supplies of *fin de siècle* Vienna. If the case of *La Ronde* from copyright is an occasion for saying whether it is any good or not, this is the production from which you can fairly make up your mind.

One point, much emphasized in all the pre-production publicity and which entirely escapes me, is Schmitzler's alleged affinity with Freud. This piece, at least, comes over less as a pioneering exploration of the human psyche than as a roué's confession of what beasts men are to women. It is the same pattern over and over again — not only in the dramatic device of passing a partner from each scene into a new bed in the next, but in the style of

each man's approach: summed-up in the old song as "Wham, Bam, Thank your Mam."

So far as the women are concerned, Schmitzler's insight comes to a stop with the idea that they say no when they mean yes, and that they want a bit of affection afterwards. Should Judge Richards be at a loose end in the Aldwych area, he should be able to garner some choice examples of contributory negligence, but the only ruling he will get from Schmitzler is that, if only men would be a bit kinder, women would have nothing to complain about.

The text of *La Ronde* reads like a casebook of typical encounters, showing how the same impulse works out in different social circumstances, with no time wasted over detailed character or gradations of feeling. According to the performance, the same material can appear as erotic, pathetic or clinical; and the questionable choice Mr Barton has made is to present the directly sexy working-class characters as less sympathetic than their evasive social superiors.

We start off with Malcolm Storry's hulkingly overbearing soldier discarding the prostitute like a leaky boot and repeating the operation with Janine Duvitski's parlourmaid Miss Duvitski then goes into action with young Alfred, bumping and grinding into the living room in answer to his bell, and giving him so little choice in the matter that it is not surprising that he beats a hasty exit to the café.

Alfred (Michael Siberry) then emerges, in the scene with the young wife, not as a calculating



Pascoe and Leigh-Hunt: splendid comic double act

wolf but as an apprentice adulterer, easily thrown off his stroke, and celebrating his delayed consummation with a show of male authority.

He is partnered by Susan Fleetwood who, both in this scene and in the sequel with her husband (Tony Church, at his most patronizingly paternal), has evident difficulty submitting to the docile feminine rules of the time. Incredulous, abrasive and mocking tones are always breaking in, threatening to explode in the face of her smug menfolk. A full-blooded character does thus emerge for the first time.

The most Schmitzlerian episode follows in the husband's encounter with the Sweet Girl (Judy Buxton), where the atmosphere of an outing

between an indulgent uncle and a favourite niece is abruptly shattered by the most brutal penetration of the whole show.

The production continues with a splendid comic double act for Richard Pascoe (as the Poet) and Barbara Leigh-Hunt (the Actress), both outstaging each other like mad, and calling each other's bluff in order to strike their own attention-hogging postures.

The production, in other words, offers variety and richness not evident from the text; but it does so at the expense of any coherent view of the material. But better be told that can be inconsequential, funny and combative, than to have it doused under glib melancholy.

Irving Wardle

Television

Malignant energy

The opening of Muck and Brass (Central) — town hall limousines cruising the drab brick streets like killer sharks, Rolls-Royce pennant fluttering above slum clearance, helicopter's descent from the heavens and ceremonial sapling returned to the nursery the moment the Lord Mayor's back was turned — was worthy of Im-Fellini.

The most welcome aspect of Margaret Matheson's new series is that it brings to British television the kind of flamboyant and sustained aggressiveness more usually associated with directors in the cinema like Francesco Rosi and Sidney Lumet.

There were no human virtues of any kind in the first episode, "Open Government", only degrees of venality and wickedness. Everyone was in it: the old Labour sparrow; the young Labour accountant; the black club-owner; and the new Tory leader of the council (James Faulkner) elected on the promise that there will be no more private cuts of the public cake. Some into evasive conventions and way down, but scrabbling like Albert for the gold at the top of the heap, stands Tom Craig, sulky small-time crook and contractor, never little more than an hour more alive with malignant energy than when his doggy brown eyes widen with hate (Mel Smith, perfect). "Open Government" was an unusually rich, coherent and self-contained first episode, but there are five still to come and slight doubts

remain that Tom Clarke the script-writer, may, like Francis Flute the bellows-mender, have spoken all his part at once, cues an' all. After the pillars of the community, a memory of urban bliss, Victoria Park (Thames) was a metropolitan idyll by Frank Cvitanovich, who once applied the same kind of suspended impressionism to shire horses in east Yorkshire. His images of a hot August Bank Holiday afternoon in Hackney — fishing for minnows, grown men enraptured with moody little model boats, pigeons and children splashing in water that sparkled against the sun like fire — were timeless, and offered perfect entertainment, but (ungrateful thought) should not the gifted Cvitanovich begin to stretch his gifts a little now?

In his "Play for Today" A Cotswold Death (BBC1), Tony Bicar combined a pastiche of the country house thriller with a useful statement on the decline of English society and manners cuts of the public cake. Some into evasive conventions and way down, but scrabbling like Albert for the gold at the top of the heap, stands Tom Craig, sulky small-time crook and contractor, never little more than an hour more alive with malignant energy than when his doggy brown eyes widen with hate (Mel Smith, perfect). "Open Government" was an unusually rich, coherent and self-contained first episode, but there are five still to come and slight doubts

Michael Ratcliffe

Dance

Extemporary Dance

The Place

The virtue and limitation of Extemporary Dance Company arise from the same source, the eclecticism. Trying to avoid the narrow range of most modern dance groups, Extemporary invite choreographers from many backgrounds to supplement the works made by their own members. The opening programme, on Monday, of their week at The Place had four works by four choreographers, all different in their approach to movement, music and structure.

So far, so good; but Extemporary only narrowly escape the fate traditional to a Jack of all trades. The one style in which they looked entirely skilled was that of David Gordon, the American whose works have previously been given in London by his own Pick Up Company and the Dutch Werkcentrum Dans. In *Counter Revolution*, made specially for Extemporary, Gordon labels each dancer with two numbers, worn fore and aft on their otherwise black clothes, then lets the numbers partly govern the action.

Starting with simple sequence games, the combinations become more complicated, while the dancers' voices, calling out their own numbers as they occupy a new position or evict a rival,

provide accompaniment and commentary.

The skill lies in swift and accurate handling of simple material in increasingly complex situations. *Counter Revolution* is fun to watch, and done with engaging enthusiasm, but I wonder how often one would want to sit through it? Contrariwise, Ian Spink's *Three Dances*, to attractive music for prepared piano by John Cage, are full of interesting movement that would probably repay closer acquaintance.

The music's staccato, insistent drive is matched by repeated solo entries in the opening section; near the end, a rhythm like typing invokes gestures recalling Massine's use of everyday movements in *Perside*. I like the way Spink echoes eccentric ground-based poses with the shapes of jumping bodies. But I suspect his imaginative choreography really needs a higher level of energy in its performance (Corinne Bourgeat honourably excepted) and more tension among the group.

Certainly, none of the three dancers in Tom Jobe's slight, slick City, to funky songs by Rickie Lee Jones, had the flair or personality to light it up. Angail Ben Ari showed solid coquetry in a folksy solo, by Kate Platt on Jewish religious themes, to Miriam Claire's insinuating chants. Never less than worthy, the programme was seldom exciting.

John Percival

Pop music

Barry Manilow

Albert Hall

After all the stories of half a million housewives prepared to kill — or at least to take out a second mortgage on the Jacuzzi — for Barry Manilow tickets, it was a relief to cross Kensington Gore without getting mugged for a £20 ticket which turned out, upon negotiation with a kind-faced man in a camel-coloured cashmere overcoat, to be worth only a fiver on the black market.

Manilow, a man so famous that his first name is a registered trade mark, appeals to the maternal instinct; that much was made explicit by the involuntary gust of "aahs" which arose as he accepted the gift of a small yellow teddy bear. There is, however, a hint of danger: his unmistakably lewd pelvic movements had the young mums in a frenzy. He is Cliff Richard with an A certificate, and the envy of

the husbands is restrained only by their conviction that they would not be seen dead in the local in that pink suit.

His choice of songs makes him the voice of the Second Avenue singles bars: songs which say that each of us is a uniquely sensitive person; songs in which disappointment and regret are indulged, but which insist that we can win throughly and of the Me Generation blown up to the scale of Las Vegas. It was impossible on Monday not to admire his projection, ensuring that even those in the topmost gallery felt close to the twinkling eyes — which is not a trick that can be achieved by bronzing gel, mascara and eye-drops alone. His vocal equipment may be limited but he has the gift of singing to a single member of the audience without excluding the other 5,999. And, plainly, he is balm for troubled suburban souls, which should not necessarily be scorned.

Richard Williams

Concert

Martino Tirimo

St John's/Radio 3

The temperature tempted more than a few Monday regulars to stay at home with their radio sets this week, making St John's more than usually reverberant. Or so it seemed when Martino Tirimo, new to this BBC midday series, embarked on the *Prelude in Debussy's Pour le piano*. His attack sounded unnecessarily violent, and texture was sometimes blurred by the pedal. But, helped by the restraint of the central movement was most sensitively shaded. In the concluding *Toccata*, too, he combined dexterity with enough delicacy to make sense of the frequently repeated contention of how much Debussy owed to the old French *clavichordistes* here.

For his main offering he chose the last and most expansive of Schubert's three A minor sonatas, identifiable as either Op 42 or D 845. The performance reaffirmed his

close personal affection for this composer. Not a note was left out in the cold, even if in responding to the music's romance he made it more in the nature of a fantasy-sonata than severely classical Schubertians might like — not least in the first movement, in which the opening idea was always treated as something mysteriously apart from the basic tempo of the rest.

He was no slave to the metronome in the Scherzo or Finale either, though it was much to his credit that he could melt all hearts in the Ländler-like trio of the Scherzo without excessive slowing down. This was exquisitely played, simple was the endearing theme of the Variations. Once or twice, at moments of heightened excitement, his forte felt too little in reserve for *fortissimo*. Once or twice he over-pedalled. But it remained very human, liquid Schubert. Even in the Finale's stream of quavers he always fastened your ear on a tune.

Joan Chissell

They're back



Terry and Arthur are back! Tonight at 9.00 sees the return of Minder. A brand new 13-part series starring the long-suffering Dennis Waterman and the ever-elusive George Cole.

But of course, your evening's entertainment would not be complete without Thames News at 6.00 with Andrew Gardner and Rita Carter, everybody's favourite This Is Your Life at 7.00 and the very special variety show London Night Out at 8.00.

With all this to look forward to you've just got to look at the bright side this evening.



ON EVERYONE'S
BEST 10 FILMS LIST 1981
"BEST ACTOR OF THE YEAR"
"MAGNETIC... SUPERB...
"MAGNIFICENT... BRILLIANT...
"REMARKABLE... ELECTRICITY...
"STUNNING... OUTSTANDING...
"STUNNING... EXCEPTIONAL..."

MEPHISTO
MOVES

STARTS
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Is this where the real pay challenge will come?

by David Blake
Economics Editor

Although the Government has shown some signs of trying to lean on the independent bodies which carry out research, she has shown no interest in going back on the agreements themselves. That is not true for those at the other end of the scale. Civil servants used to have their pay set by comparability. Last year the Government scrapped the machinery, provoking a strike which it won.

There is no doubt that the Government's action last year was partly justified, at least in terms of the actual pay settlement. They did very well in 1979 and 1980 and there was some acceptance of the fact that the private sector was having to accept far more job losses.

This year the signs suggest a hardening in attitudes. The Civil Service unions' pay claim is roughly for a 30 per cent increase compared to the 4 per cent which the Government has set as its target. Ministers are further complicated by the pledge which the Government gave last year that cash limits would not be set before the pay negotiations. This has little practical importance (the Government is trying for a 4 per cent settlement) but it has the effect of introducing even more uncertainty into the talks. What is becoming clear is that even if the Government can get a low settlement with its servants this year, it is most unlikely to be able to pull off the same trick in the following pay round.

Whether it is successful in the talks which are about to start will depend in key measure on its success in the uncertain middle ground between those with guaranteed comparability schemes on the one hand and the rigidly controlled Civil Service on the other.

So far, the Government has been doing rather less well than it hoped in this area. The local authority manual workers' settlement of around 7 per cent was far higher than the Government had hoped. That was an example of the way its arm's length relationship with the local authorities makes it impossible to ensure it gets its way. The Labour author-

ities voted for the deal and the Conservatives against. Although the Government norm for the public sector went down this year from 6 per cent to 4 per cent, the local authority manual workers' settlement has not dropped at all.

Even more disturbing is the narrowness of the majority among the water workers for accepting this offer, even though it is over twice as high as the Government's target. That suggests there is little prospect of getting other powerful groups to settle for less.

This applies particularly to the miners. There is no doubt that the Coal Board's offer was carefully set at a level which management thought would be accepted. If the strike ballot later this week produces a vote against a strike, or only a half-hearted vote in favour, the Government will be able to breathe again.

But if the vote is heavily for industrial action, this is bound to have a disturbing effect on public sector pay settlements generally. Most groups of workers accept that a combination of muscle and morality makes the miners a special case. But not that special.

There is an informal acceptance that miners get a few percentage points more than other workers. But pushed above a certain limit, that tolerance goes and would be replaced by a demand from other groups for preferential treatment.

Over the past 18 months the Government has been able to pursue a crude policy on pay in the public sector because workers there were to some extent living off the improved salaries they registered in earlier years. That is coming to an end.

As it does, the policy on public sector pay will become more formalized. Other favoured groups, like the nurses, will have to be bought off with the promise of big settlements in years ahead. Unless the Government can convert the temporary negotiating advantage which rising unemployment has given it into a firm basis of moderation, we could see another public sector pay round of strikes and discontent in 1982-83.

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Why nobody can win the fares war

"Transport in London has reached a level of chaos and public dissatisfaction that requires a complete change of direction if the problems we now face are to be solved."

Today this diagnosis rings especially true, the morning after an extraordinary meeting of the Greater London Council attempted, without signal success, to make sense of the Law Lords' judgment on fares.

Londoners face massive bus and tube fares within months; most will not even feel any benefit that accrues on the rates. Ministers and officials at the Department of Transport are beginning to realize that the brave Tories of Bromley may have brought the entire system of public transport into question.

But the splits in the Labour Party at large soon showed. Mrs Anne Sofer had the courage to resign her seat in St Pancras North and then fought and regained it under the colours of the Social Democrats. She was later joined by another ex-Labour councillor and together with County Hall's sole Liberal, a conspicuous Alliance (Yesterday all three strongly urged the Government to accept the principle of public transport subsidies).

All was not lost for the Labour group. After a legal action by the London Transport Board, then Lord Denning's contentious judgment in the Appeal Court, Labour's ranks held firm. Nothing so unites radicals and socialists with a populist strain as the sight of a judge doing the people down: Lord Denning fits the bill.

The day, last month, when the Law Lord's judgment was read seemed to offer Mr Livingstone a grand chance of pulling his party out of the mire. Friends of the Earth as well as a host of ordinary bus and train users — into a useful campaign. Mr McIntosh called it a golden opportunity for unity.

But Mr Livingstone's true colours are those of the sectarian. He came to power by caucus, and his allies on the councils — notably the 25-year-old conscience of the County Hall left, Miss Valerie Wise — would ensure that by caucus he would remain in power.

When the Labour group of councillors met on Monday night they were given. Their divisions are likely to grow because the logic of modern Labour politics dictates that the Labour councillors who voted yesterday for a fares increase are to be visited with retribution.

This will come in the form of constituency parties passing votes of no-confidence and urging them to resign. No tactic is more certain of codifying the Labour Party's division. Meanwhile, Labour's transport policy document of 1980 was prescient. These policies (on fares) have had the time to produce the reliable public transport service London needs, they are invariably reversed and we continue in a downward spiral.

officials failed to persuade young and independent councillors or, in the meantime, they did not listen.

The May elections brought Mr Livingstone power, a £1,000m budget and the compelling sight of his reflection in the glass of the press, radio and television. The party held together during Mr Livingstone's summer of discontent; transport was a quiet issue on which members united.

But the splits in the Labour Party at large soon showed. Mrs Anne Sofer had the courage to resign her seat in St Pancras North and then fought and regained it under the colours of the Social Democrats. She was later joined by another ex-Labour councillor and together with County Hall's sole Liberal, a conspicuous Alliance (Yesterday all three strongly urged the Government to accept the principle of public transport subsidies).

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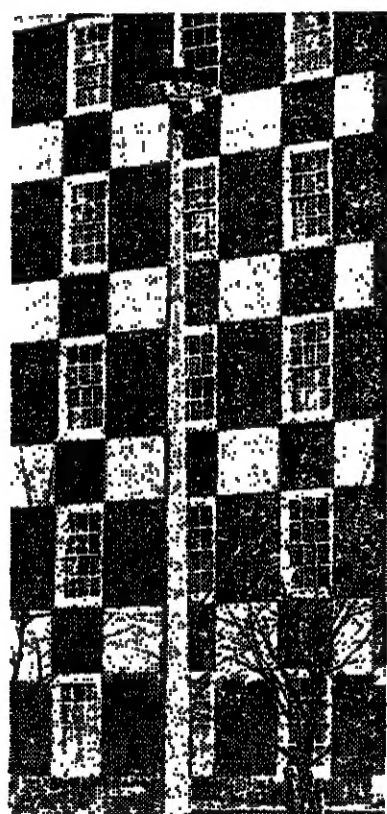
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David Walker

Lutyens: a chequered career



The Grosvenor housing estate: a shattering grimace

Indigenous British architecture, say the Lutyens revivalists, died with Sir Edwin Lutyens in 1944; and — they say — the way forward is to jettison the last 60 years of cultural development and study the Master's earlier work for guidance.

The motley gang of revisionists who are promoting this view have been accorded a spread and quantity of media coverage that no discussion of modern architecture has yet achieved. Indeed, the absence of dissent has prompted extravagant claims from luminaries of such organizations as the Art Workers Guild and the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. Roderick Graddidge, of the former, states that "the Modern Movement is dead"; David Pearce, of the latter, claims that Lutyens "shows a way forward out of the Dark Ages".

These chaps are wholesomely didactic. Graddidge addresses himself to the task of asking what Lutyens can offer future generations, concluding: "outstanding three dimensional vision; deep understanding and love of the past of all periods; and his feeling for the real needs of his fellow men..." By implication, he is claiming that architects of the

present day — as well as those of the last 60 years — have been lacking such attributes.

That such a sickening exercise in unrealistic nostalgia should receive widespread support is amazing. The revivalists, whom John Betjeman unfairly but accurately described in the 1930s as "dribbling over finger bowls in the Cotswolds, trying to get back to the Old Morris Movement", are trying to write off three generations of architecture on the basis of selected early works of an architect whose wartime plans for Piccadilly, even his hagiographers admit, were little better than Speer's. Despite the sideways glances at the war graves and New Delhi, the main part of the Lutyens celebration is concentrated upon his pre-1914 country houses.

His more mainstream twentieth century developments do not show any way forward at all: his office blocks have small touches of incidental delight which those of Cooper or Baker do not, but not as much as those of Mies and Le Corbusier. His attempts by turret and colonnade to decorate Grosvenor House, facing Park Lane, after snatching the job from the already appointed architect, do nothing to

appease the gross scale of the development. His only mass housing scheme, behind Horseferry Road, has a shattering grimace.

So what can we learn from the Lutyens' country houses that is of value today — and of which architects are supposed to be unaware? Quality of craftsmanship? Certainly, but those craftsmen no longer exist. The last vestiges of them joined the car industry after the building industry slump of 1968. The quality of space? Very fine, but few clients these days are prepared to afford the luxury of grand volumes, galleries, music rooms, twisting corridors, and fine staircases. Beautiful details? Without a doubt, but whereas in 1904 windows — and virtually everything else — would be made on site, they are now ordered from international catalogues, for reasons of economy.

What has to be realized is that those beautiful houses would probably cost, in modern terms, over half a million pounds to build. The money used to house one Lutyens client, family and servants is now expected to stretch to 60 or 80 people. It may be that Messrs Graddidge and Pearce would prefer a return to the feudal society; but

they had better assure themselves exactly where in the hierarchy they would be should that come about.

The so called "heroic period" of modern architecture between the wars did not, as has so often been stated, reduce architecture purely to functionalism or "machines for living in"; that development was a postwar phenomenon. Berthold Lubetkin's 1935 country cottage for himself at Whipsnade is, in its own way, every bit as poetic as a Lutyens building.

You cannot blame a man who has been dead for 38 years for the way people abuse his memory. The fact that he did not like Modern architecture is not in itself a justification for writing it off. On the other hand, there is no doubt that modern architects could learn a lot in the way that their rigid and austere classical approach to designing buildings could be modified by some romanticism and humour.

Charles McKean
Architecture Correspondent

The Lutyens exhibition continues at the Hayward Gallery until the end of January.

Will Michelin award Britain's first three stars?

Chefs and gastronomes (including myself) are agog. And all because of what may be nothing more than a printers' decorative embellishment on an invitation card to the launch of the 1982 Michelin Guide. The card is headed with the guide's famous stars. Can it, must it not mean that at least one restaurant in Britain is at long last to be granted the ultimate culinary accolade?

The Michelin men are, predictably, maintaining complete secrecy until January 21 when the guide is published. "The three stars on the card do not mean a thing," insisted a bonhomous bibendum at Michelin House yesterday, but nobody believes him.

If only one restaurant is to be promoted, it could be an invitation to fratricide since the two front-runners are both owned by the Roux brothers. The Waterside Inn at Bray, is the country domain of Michel Roux, and Le Gavroche, newly installed in Mayfair under the charge of brother Albert, were both raised to two stars in 1977. The brothers have agreed that Le Gavroche was moved to its sumptuous new premises because they feared the old place in Chelsea was too cramped ever to win its third star.

The clever money will take its chance on a double — both restaurants being promoted together.

Since 1977, when the Connaught and the Ritz were also awarded two stars, there has only been one change at the top has been

THE TIMES DIARY



Karlheinz Stockhausen, long-standing leader of the electronic avant garde in music, flies into London today on his way home to Cologne from a silent night in Dublin. Stockhausen was in Ireland to conduct his Inori, a composition for two mimes and a recognizable symphony orchestra, at a twentieth-century music festival. But he called it off when too few musicians turned up for rehearsal, blaming snow.

In London he is taking no chances with either musicians or weather. He goes first to the BBC for an assurance of adequate rehearsal time when he conducts his symphony orchestra in Inori at the Lyttelton Theatre on the South Bank, followed by a performance of the elevation of another Roux-backed restaurant, Tante Claire, to share the select group of five which at present have two stars.

There are 21 three-star establishments in France, three in Germany (two newly appointed last year), two in Belgium and none in Italy or Spain.

Home truths

Today's choice of practical uses of the social sciences comes from Ted Wragg, professor in the School of Education at Exeter University and president of the British Educational Research Association.

Aries, a 15-minute work for pre-recorded tape and one live trumpet — in the person here of his son Markus, who has doubtless arranged to overcome the freeze-up and the train strike.

All this is small-scale stuff for a man writing a seven-day opera called Light. Music from its second segment (or day) is released this month by Deutsche Grammophon in a recorded concert version involving 14 players, several tapes and Stockhausen himself as "sound projectionist". It blends sounds as diverse as a traditional Japanese ensemble and something resembling the Glen Miller Orchestra — but its most unusual feature is a spoken request in mid-performance for applause, duly granted, "to inspire the musicians to continue". Fancy Beethoven asking the Viennese to show their appreciation after the scherzo of his Fifth.

As I mentioned yesterday, Professor Wragg's choice found a good deal of overlap with the choices of others, not least within the Social Science Research Council itself, whose contribution I had to cut the other day.

"First, home background and school achievement. Research by, among others, J. W. B. Douglas and Professor Stephen Wiseman in the mid-1960s identified several factors in home background, such as attitudes of parents and home circumstances (including availability of books in the house), which were related to children's achievement in school. The Flow-



Would it improve your image, Prime Minister, to sustain a minor injury?

early 1970s of teachers at work in their own classrooms, by Professors Neville Bennet, B. Simon, Dr Roy Nash and Professor J. Eggleston, has produced a greater awareness of the importance of teaching styles."

Three more examples tomorrow.

Dazzling Brideshead

So far so good for Brideshead Revisited in America. At last night's party to launch the series at the National Arts Club in New York, Anthony Andrews and Diana Quick breathed a collective sigh of relief: there had been worries that the slow development of Evelyn Waugh's story-line would frustrate Americans. But *New Yorker* described the series as "dazzling" and *Time* reported: "...never before has a novel been so faithfully adapted" (step forward John Mortimer). Jeremy Irons was, unfortunately, unable to share in the enjoyment; apparently he is ill, suffering from snow-induced pneumonia.

Glittering as the remaining stars were, however, the suspect must have been pushed to outshine the National Arts Club itself. Founded by Remington, Stanford White and George B. Post in 1898, its present building is the brainchild of Samuel Tilden, a former governor of New York, State and Presidential candidate. It was designed by Calvert Vaux, who helped plan Central Park, and is a national landmark. Most important, it has the most exquisite bar in New York — with a priceless, domed, stained-glass ceiling by John La Farge.

Peter Watson

Punch

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BITING THE POLISH BULLET

The relative unanimity achieved by the Nato powers on Poland ought to put an end to the dithering over how the West should respond to the regime of General Jaruzelski. Since the military takeover a month ago — recorded elsewhere in this edition — the Western powers have turned the Polish problem this way and that, unsure of what to make of it. Is General Jaruzelski a Polish patriot who has forestalled a Russian invasion of his country, or is he a tool of the Soviet Union, doing what the Russians prefer not to have to do themselves? The honest answer is that we do not know, perhaps never will.

Conceivably General Jaruzelski does not make the distinction in his own mind. He is, after all, a Pole, a soldier and a Communist, so that for him conflicts between the demands of national security and of the "socialist commonwealth" do not necessarily arise. If this is so, the Nato response is the correct one. To put pressure on the Polish regime while at the same time placing a share of the blame squarely on the Kremlin is surely sensible. Mr Haig may exaggerate the extent of Soviet involvement in the Polish coup d'état, just as his European counterparts may have an inflated image of General Jaruzelski as the defender of Polish national honour, but the result is the same. The differences between the Western allies have emerged as differences of degree rather than kind.

There is still the danger that the two sides of the Alliance will find it difficult to agree in practice on precisely how pressure should be applied, whether against Warsaw or against Moscow. Mr Haig speaks of a "vigorous" Western response, and the actions of the Reagan Administration so far bear him out. The European allies have now undertaken to complement the American measures with sanctions of their own, but in terms which are worryingly vague. The Brussels agreement calls on each Nato ally to "identify appropriate national possibilities for action" in accordance with "its own situation and legislation". This might be taken as a reasonable bow in the direction of national sovereignty and the principle of national interest. Some European powers — notably the West Germans — are understandably concerned lest American measures should in some way damage West European economic interests. This has already happened in the case of the

planned Soviet gas pipeline to Western Europe, of which the Americans have been suspicious all along. The Germans, moreover, are to some extent governed by their history of trading and political links with Eastern Europe, which pre-date the German connection with the United States.

The assertion — or re-assertion — of such historical patterns of national interest must not however be allowed to cast a shadow over the unity of the Western Alliance. Nor should they be used as a pretext for avoiding serious action over Poland in concert with the United States, or for minimising the impact of such action. Mr Haig is right to emphasise the strength and resilience of the alliance, and right also to expect a corresponding vigour of tone from his allies, something he has not so far received from Lord Carrington. In a series of unusually feeble and flaccid remarks on television, the Foreign Secretary managed to convey the impression in Brussels that all Britain really had to offer was a review of diplomatic representation and exchange agreements, together with other peripheral measures not likely to involve undue hardship, or indeed undue effort. The NATO policy can only be effective if pursued with drive, rather than in the languorous and enervated manner so far adopted by Lord Carrington.

It is of course far too easy to distinguish — as Nato proposes to do — between food aid for humanitarian purposes, and general economic aid of the kind likely to sustain the military regime. Moreover withdrawing credits to Poland and suspending talks on rescheduling the Polish debt entail risks as well as benefits for the West. And it would be absurd to exact punishment in a way likely to have a damaging effect on the Western nations themselves. But what follows from all this is not that sanctions should be marginal, on the defeatist assumption that they probably will have little impact anyway. What follows is that sanctions must be precise, well-planned, and above all coordinated.

This has an affinity with military matters in that there must be a clarity of objective. The aim cannot be to bring Poland to its knees, which might be possible but would be questionable, or even the Soviet Union. It is sometimes suggested that cutting off all trade and diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union would precipitate the collapse from the edges inwards of an imperial system already over-

stretched by nationalist unrest, economic difficulties and a guerrilla war in Afghanistan. This is a romantic notion. It almost certainly underestimates the flexibility of the Soviet system and the capacity of the Russians, if not the East Europeans, to endure it, even in extremis. More importantly, it would introduce a dangerous unpredictability into East-West relations which would return to the Cold War with thermo-nuclear knobs on. There may come a time when high risks have to be run — the resolve must always be maintained — but it is premature to take the gamble with the stability of the entire continent, east and west, which is implicit in such apocalyptic strategy.

A pragmatic detente is still worth the effort. This leaves the West with the essential but more limited aim of forcing the Polish military authorities to release those interned in Poland, in appalling conditions, and resume their dialogue with Solidarity and the Church. Pressures to this end have already had an effect. The recent concessions — including the lifting of censorship — were undoubtedly a direct response to the strength of reaction in Western Europe and the United States. They were also almost certainly made in anticipation of the Nato meeting in Brussels, reflecting anxiety on the part of the Warsaw regime — and, by extension, on the part of the Kremlin — over what the West might do next.

It is therefore right that while the West engages in the kind of diplomatic fine tuning which has wrung human rights concessions from the Russians in the past, and is having an impact on Poland today, it should make it crystal clear that it has more drastic measures in reserve. These include — as Mr Haig has spelled out — the suspension of talks on arms control, to which the Soviet Union attaches great importance. Total sanctions would leave no reserve threat while forcing Russia back into dark and dangerous isolationism. But selective, carefully calculated sanctions, or even the threat of such measures, could have a far-reaching impact on the Soviet Union and would make it think at least twice before intervening directly in Poland or — a more likely development — preventing the military regime from relaxing. For this to work, the Western powers must act in coordination, however, if not in unison. And they must show that while they do not yet choose to bite quite as hard as they can, they none the less have teeth.

Power cost and smelter closure

From Rear-Admiral David Dunbar-Nasmith

Sir, Your statement (leading article, January 8) that the Invergordon aluminium smelter was already receiving electricity at half the cost of the average Scottish industrial needs qualification and an appreciation of the economic advantages for the electricity supply authorities of large-scale continuous electricity demand.

These are valuable orders, so far as the makers of electricity and the coal industry are concerned. Both will sharply feel the loss (temporary, I hope) of Invergordon. There are two aluminium smelters in the United Kingdom, not dependent on water power, which are at present receiving power at a significantly lower price than that which brought Invergordon to a standstill.

The Highland Board believe in developments based on the area's natural resources, as did Lord Kelvin when he started aluminium smelting on the shores of Loch Ness with hydroelectric power over 80 years ago. His success inspired British Aluminium to build larger plants at Kinlochleven in 1907 and Fort William in 1929.

These private hydro schemes were built before the hydro board acquired a monopoly of developing the water resources of the Highlands, and it would not have been possible to build these private cheap power schemes after the formation of the hydro board, and Kinlochleven and Fort William would now be closed.

The hydro board's original charter charged them "to exploit the water power resources of the Highlands of Scotland by producing cheap electricity which would help to regenerate the local economy".

What has happened to the vision of those who set up the hydro board in 1943 and developed the resources with great skill in the years that followed? Sixty per cent of the hydro power they developed could operate Invergordon and operate it in a highly profitable manner. The remaining 40 per cent could enable a modernised pulp mill to make proper use of the natural timber resources of the Highlands, increasing these to Scandinavia, as is happening at the moment. There would still be more than enough cheap power left to run several metal-producing industries, such as ferro-alloys, saving greatly on the country's import bill.

What would be the cost, as compared with the cost of those in the Highlands who would have to pay the same rate for our domestic electricity as those throughout the United Kingdom, instead of a marginally cheaper rate. I suggest that the people of the Highlands would much rather have a few long-term secure jobs contributing significantly to the country's balance of payments while paying the going rate for their domestic electricity. This is what is done in Norway and other countries who are fortunate enough to have sources of cheap hydro power, and I believe it is a way of life more in keeping with Highland pride.

There is no doubt that, given a realistic price for a continuous bulk supply of electricity, taking into account the availability in the Highlands of hydro power which has been virtually written off, this medium-sized smelter could be made extremely viable for many years to come. A prize worth every penny of the salvage money and not a "dinosaur".

Yours etc,
DAVID DUNBAR-NASMITH,
Chairman,
Highlands and Islands Development Board,
Bridge House,
27 Bank Street, Inverness,
January 11.

Liberals in alliance

From Mr George Edinger

Sir, One would rather Mr David Wood (feature, January 11) did not expound on what old Asquithian Liberals want. He can't remember Asquith. I can. Having seen an active Liberal since 1920 — elected by Mr Asquith, no less, in my undergraduate days) I can tell him that one thing all Liberals want is fair play, that is representation in Parliament reflecting their votes in the country — the way it is in democracies. Not one per cent of seats for 25 per cent of votes, the way it is in Britain.

And that is just what the SDP is offering, and that's what makes all other coalitions that Mr Wood digs out of the history books completely irrelevant, a waste of time to write, a waste of time to read.

Yours etc,
GEORGE EDINGER,
Reform Club,
Pall Mall, SW1.

Capital error

From Mrs L. G. Taylor

Sir, As secretary to the Hereditary Steward of the House of Elphberg I am commanded to convey to you his Majesty the King's deprecation of the reference by your correspondent Mr Waters (January 11) to his Majesty's glorious and ancient capital of Strelasauas Przscyszczow.

Although unable, owing to circumstances beyond his control, to occupy the throne of his ancestors, his Majesty wishes to assure loyal Ruritaniens everywhere of his intention to sweep away the false idols of anarchism and reclaim his birthright.

Long live the King.
I am, Sir, your obedient and humble servant,
LYNN G. TAYLOR,
74 Wood Lane,
Chippingham,
Wiltshire,
January 11.

Changes in constituency boundaries

From Lord Cranborne, MP for Dorset, South (Conservative)

Sir, The letter you published on December 10, 1981, from Dr Marshall reflects the interest he has in the question of constituency boundaries.

However, perhaps we should remember that Parliament itself determines constituency boundaries. Parliament has, ever since the first complete review of constituencies in 1832, delegated certain points of detail to Boundary Commissioners, but it has not abdicated authority or renounced responsibility. To suggest that the Boundary Commission is in some way autonomous is to mistake the nature of authority in the constitution.

At first Boundary Commissions were established ad hoc. However, although they were given a permanent status by the Representation of the People Act, 1948, the constituencies which return members to the House of Commons remain direct creatures of that Act (section 1 with schedule 1) and not of the Boundary Commissions. The purpose of the Commissioners is to ensure that Parliament has before it suitable and sufficient information, in the convenient form of widely published and annotated proposals, to enable it to consider adjustments to constituency boundaries by Order under the reserve powers taken to Parliament by that statute.

Besides, the authority of an individual member of the House of Commons flows not from the "interest" which he may represent, or from his membership of a particular party or institution, nor indeed from the fact that he was nominated as a candidate, as we all are, by a particular partisan group, but from the fact that he secures on election the accredited representative of all the people in his constituency. Each of them can identify him with their concerns, and he can identify himself with theirs.

It therefore follows that the Secretary of State can and should use all the authority of his office to ensure that those officials whose task it is to attend to this work should bring forward the proper documents needed by Parliament as promptly as circumstances require. For unless constituencies are up to date they cannot carry the authority that is a prerequisite for the effective representation of the people.

Until 1885, and to a lesser degree until 1918, this authority was based primarily upon common interest rather than equality of numbers, a principle which still underpins the House of Commons and its members of Parliament alike.

All of us who have recently had to look at the conflicting objectives set for redistribution in the context of our own constituencies must recognise that the time has come for fresh public debate as to which should be the governing criterion in today's

Cuts in science studies

From the Chairman of the Council for Science and Society and others

Sir, University responses to current budgetary cuts are putting small interdisciplinary subjects into peculiar jeopardy. We wish in particular to bring to the attention of the various departments and units of "science studies" — ie, those concerned with the history, philosophy, sociology, economics and politics of science and technology.

Specific advice on these particular subjects has not been given by the University Grants Committee. Many universities, under pressure, are being tempted to make this subject area the target for disproportionate reductions in staff. On present information, existing proposals are cutting through at least 50 out of some 114 teachers in these subjects are at risk of being dismissed or forced into early retirement. A cut of this magnitude would gravely weaken the contribution of this subject area to British higher education.

This would be an extraordinary loss. We look to historical studies to show the past relationship between technology and economic growth, and thereby to

illuminate present policies; we look to the philosophy of science to provide the critique and understanding of scientific methodology, and we rely on courses on "science, technology and society" to educate our students of engineering and science in the political, economic and ethical aspects of their future professional work. Neglect of these themes is one cause of the "British disease". Students appreciate the importance of this and there is considerable demand for teaching in these subjects across the university faculties.

It would be tragic if, as a result of ill-considered policies and of incoherent action between and within universities, this subject area were almost to disappear from the university scene for a generation.

Yours faithfully,
J. M. ZIMAN,
ASHBY BRIGGS,
ALEX CAIRNCROSS,
KENNETH EMBIGH,
ANDREW HUXLEY,
C. W. KILMISTER,
K. R. POPPER,
SWANN,
Council for Science and Society,
3-4 St Andrew's Hill, EC4,
January 8.

Lost heritage

From Mr Brian Lymbery and Mrs Mary Traynor

Sir, Your correspondent's report on December 31, 1981, about the partial demolition of the Dowlass Stables, Merthyr Tydfil, highlights an anomaly in the system of protection for listed buildings. Within little more than two days after a collapse of stone from the northern facade the borough council had demolished nearly half of the stables. By issuing a dangerous structure notice the local authority was able to achieve this instant destruction without an inquiry or any requirement to consider the views of the owners and others or to take account of outside expert opinion.

The local Heritage Trust has been working on restoration proposals, but its plans were delayed by difficulties in obtaining ownership. It therefore called for emergency shoring up of the facade and barriers to protect the public so that time could be gained to assess the full extent of the problem and to work out a rescue. Its requests were rejected. The chances of now saving this listed building must be very low.

From this example it seems that the reason of "public safety" can be used, without debate, to thwart the spirit, although not the letter, of our legislation to protect historic buildings. Outside the local authority concerned nobody can do anything about it.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN LYMBERY, Director,
The Prince of Wales' Committee,
MARY TRAYNOR, Secretary,
South Wales Group, Victorian Society,
Sophia Gardens Lodge, Cardiff,
January 4.

Revealing the riches of English poetry

From Lord David Cecil, CH

Sir, Your Literary Editor in your issue of January 4 is surely right in suggesting that young people proposing to read English literature at the university seem to

exclusion of poetry. Indeed I am told, though I can hardly believe it, that there are government schools in which pupils are taught literature without having to read any poetry, except the Shakespearean compulsory for the English O and A-level examinations.

If so, it shows that their teachers are unqualified to teach their subject. Her literature is one of England's supreme glories and much more on account of her poetry than of her novels. It has also proved to live more enduring satisfaction.

Readers still delight in Elizabethan lyrics who would be bored by Sir Philip Sidney's *Arcadia*, and are moved by Gray's *Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard* as they are not by *Clarel Harlowe*. This is natural. Poetry is usually concerned with what is universal and unchanging a human life; novels necessarily with much that is local and ephemeral. Moreover poetry, almost like music, transcends the limitations of time by appealing to our emotions through our basic primitive sense of rhythm and harmony.

People need to be introduced to poetry early: it is in youth that they respond to it most intensely and get the most out of it; and, unless they come from an unusually literary home, they must be introduced at school. It is therefore the first duty of any teacher of literature to give their pupils a chance of enjoying it. The universities should help by insisting that anyone proposing to read for an English literary degree must show acquaintance with at least some of our great poets.

I realise that my own practice may not seem to support my principles: for my most widely read critical writings have been about the novels of Hardy and Jane Austen, now apparently the two favourite English classical novelists. I am glad of this; but, speaking as one who taught English literature for 50 years, I should be sorry if it had encouraged anyone to read the works of these authors to the exclusion of those of Chaucer or Wordsworth or Keats or Yeats.

Yours truly,
DAVID CECIL,
Red Lion House,
Salisbury Street,
Cranborne,
Dorset,
January 7.

Suffering children

From Mrs William Birkbeck

Sir, Your admirable leading article, "Suffering little children" (December 19) and subsequent correspondents have pleaded for greater government support for Unicef. Sadly, governments do little more than reflect public opinion. It is the conscience of the individual that needs to be awakened. With so comparatively little, Unicef can achieve so much for the world's children.

In an attempt to increase awareness of this fact, Unicef United Kingdom Committee is establishing World Children's Week to be held annually in the third week of September, beginning this year of 1982.

Those who feel the plight of their world's children to be close to their hearts may be glad to concentrate their efforts towards supporting these weeks. With massive backing, consciences of both nation and Government could be so stirred that Unicef would become a household word and the abysmally small contributions made by this prosperous island could be considerably increased.

Yours faithfully,
MARY BIRKBECK,
Chairman, Unicef (United Kingdom) World Children's Week,
United Kingdom Committee for Unicef,
46-48 Osnaburgh Street, NW1,
January 3.

An humble petition

From the Reverend P. J. Ridley

Dear Sir, The Source of all might, majesty and dominion in these our Times, I, thine unworthy servant, do humbly beseech thee, of thy merciful goodness so to admonish and enlighten thy servant Christopher Staughton (book review, January 7) that whereas (as it seemeth) he doth verily believe the *Alternative Service Book*, 1580, to have in it the words, "Do not bring us to the time of trial," he may by thy phyllophor counsel be brought to repent of that his most miserable conceit.

And forasmuch as perchance he hath never yet looked with his own eyes into the said Book, thou goeth (as the saying is) by hearsay, being but a poor scholar yet notwithstanding misliking the said Book from the inclination of thy heart, I humbly beseech thee of thy gracious and most bounteous favour so to bestow upon him sufficient alms that he may purchase to himself a fair copy of the same Book, that so he may have the fruition of its most excellent virtue and evermore live to ascribe praise and honour where it is most just and due.

And these things I ask for the sake of sound learning, indifferent judgement and integrity of manners; ever remaining thine obedient servant,
PETER RIDLEY,
Clerk in Holy Orders,
Eynsham Vicarage,
Oxford,
January 7.

NO MINISTER FOR SNOW

The sea may freeze and snow may drift as high as the rooftops, but party politics go on. By simply reactivating the financial arrangements for compensating emergency spending authorities for emergency spending, Mrs Thatcher has reduced her opponents to complaining that she should have done so sooner, or that she should have gone the whole way and also appointed a Snow Minister, as her predecessors did at such times, to preside over the crisis and be seen to be in charge of coordinating operations. But Mrs Thatcher takes an austere view of anything resembling a gimmick, and she rejected that idea; apart from anything else, there is no obvious candidate on the Government benches equipped with the almost supernatural powers that Mr Denis Howell used to bring to jobs of this kind. At the news of his appointment, droughts would invariably turn moist and oil slicks would sink away from the coast; where he set foot in winter, heat was always found to be in the very sod where the snow lay dented. The queasy helicopter ride of the unfortunate Secretary of State for Wales is hardly in the same league.

A respectable political case can be made for putting a minister in charge of the response to a major national emergency. Mr Howell's activities may have had an effect on morale over and above their publicity value. But such gestures look empty unless there is a real job for the minister to do, and one that is not being done satisfactorily already. There is no reason to believe that the response to the present crisis would be any more effective

if there was a minister specially assigned to overseeing it.

The Government, only too anxious to put in a good word for local autonomy when it does not conflict with more urgent objectives, insists that councils are well able to cope under existing arrangements, even though the effect of the floods and snow is so widespread that it cannot be dealt with by councils purely on a piecemeal basis. The Department of the Environment has regional offices ready to give advice where required, but there is no developed administrative structure at regional level to co-ordinate services. Obviously the matter appears in a different perspective from the snowbound farmhouse than it does from county hall, let alone from Whitehall, and some councils will undoubtedly rise to the occasion with more energy and imagination than others, but as yet there is no reason to dissent from Mr Heseltine's view that councils possess the experience and the equipment to arrange matters broadly on their own. There is always a good deal of everyday co-operation between neighbouring councils, and there seems to be no general wish among those most closely involved, mainly shire counties, for the Government to become more closely involved in administration.

It is inevitable that a freak of the weather on the present scale will reveal many deficiencies in the precautions taken beforehand, by public authorities as much as by industry and private householders. The disruption, the economic loss and the hardship are great, but it remains true that precautions

designed to meet quite exceptional weather conditions are a false economy. This would be the case under local or more centralised control.

The Government is right to announce special provisions for helping councils to meet the challenge. The rates are too inflexible: a source of revenue to give them any chance of meeting the costs simply from local resources. The damage falls far more heavily in some areas than others, and often in those least able to bear the cost. The emergency is rightly to be considered a national one. But the Government can never put wholly out of its mind the need to keep local expenditure within bounds, and although it has been announced that spending due to exceptional weather conditions will not be taken into account when spending is assessed for penal reductions in grant, long negotiations are likely over what items are admissible and what are not. The similar negotiations over the last such crisis in 1978-9 are not yet fully concluded in a few instances.

The mechanism of a 75 per cent grant for spending in excess of the sum each council can raise by a penny rate worked without causing undue conflict on the last two occasions. It discriminates against counties with high ratable values, like Hampshire, where the product of a penny rate is about £2m, and there may be grounds for considering whether greater flexibility is desirable in such cases. But broadly the announcement enables councils to undertake necessary spending in confidence that they will be treated fairly, in an emergency whose eventual costs are likely to dwarf those of three years ago.

Business News

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JANUARY 13 1982

Interest rate
jitters,
page 13

US companies
come clean,
page 13

Telecom 'has to rely on price rises'

By Bill Johnstone and Gareth David

British Telecom profits will rise this year because of higher telephone charges, not through increased efficiency, according to Sir George Jefferson, chairman.

Sir George, in a letter to staff, admitted that British Telecom failed to reduce real costs per unit of output, that running costs rose at double last year's rate of inflation, and that costs rose in all main sectors of the company last year — yet profits are predicted to rise.

He said: "BT's profits will be well up this year (a major contribution to investment and encouraging investors), but predominantly because of tariff increases — not efficiency."

The average telephone charges for resident users increased in November by about 5 or 13 per cent a quarter, while business users faced an increase of about 14.50 or 7 per cent.

British Telecom maintains that the increases were necessary for it to achieve the financial targets set by the Government of 5 per cent return on net assets at replacement cost. Last year, British Telecom made a profit of £180.7m.

The letter also said that, despite previous objections to the contrary, British Telecom now agreed there was enough business in the United Kingdom to support privately owned telecommunications networks operating in competition.

Previously British Telecom has claimed that alternative networks would take away revenue from its high-earning business sector and that this would result in domestic tariff increases. (Sir George said: "The number of

competitors is increasing. That increase will accelerate, I believe, when opportunities become more widely appreciated. Already, Project Mercury (a competing network financed by Cable & Wireless, BP and Barclays Merchant Bank) is aiming for the most profitable business sector. There's plenty of scope for competition in the United Kingdom."

A limit on telephone tariff increases is likely to be the subject of negotiations between the Treasury and the Department of Industry. About £100m to £350m is expected to be raised through the bond.

The bond, nicknamed the "Buzby bond", is still the subject of negotiations between the Treasury and the Department of Industry. About £100m to £350m is expected to be raised through the bond.

Its issue has been postponed at least twice because of objections from the Treasury which said that the bond in its earlier forms breached the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement and at a cost higher than alternative forms of raising finance.

The chairman in his staff message said: "We won't be able to rely on tariff increases to achieve our profitability. Our competitors would under cut our prices. And a limit on tariff increases is likely to be one condition of the bond exercise."

Mr Michael Corby, director of the Telecommunications Users Association, said last night: "We welcome this kind of frank statement. We welcome the confirmation that British Telecom has been over-reliant on monopoly pricing in order to make profits."

Snow and BR strike hampering industry

By Rupert Morris and David Felton

The combined effects of the Arctic weather and the train drivers' strike today, and tomorrow seem certain to reduce industrial activity substantially this week.

With 85 per cent of goods and raw materials moved by road, a two-day rail strike is not expected to have a huge disruptive effect; most inconvenience will be caused for commuters unable to get to work.

But bad weather, which brought South Wales to a standstill and severely restricted activity in Scotland, is likely to prove a far more serious factor.

Coal stocks at power stations, which were as high as 19 million tonnes in England and Wales in December, have been reduced to 14.9 million tonnes — 1.6 million tonnes having been used up last week alone.

Although the Central Electricity Generating Board says stocks are still above average for the time of year, continued cold weather and an intensification of the rail dispute could soon reduce them to uncomfortable levels just as the result of miners' strike ballot is announced.

British Steel yesterday described the rail strike threat as a hiccup. More serious was the freezing weather which has put three plants out of action. Some 500 men have been marooned in the Port Talbot steelworks and the Ravenscroft works in Lancashire paralysed by temperatures that have frozen diesel fuel in engines and made coal immovable without the aid of pneumatic drills.

British Steel said it could lose up to £100m overall through the weather's effect on production and transport.

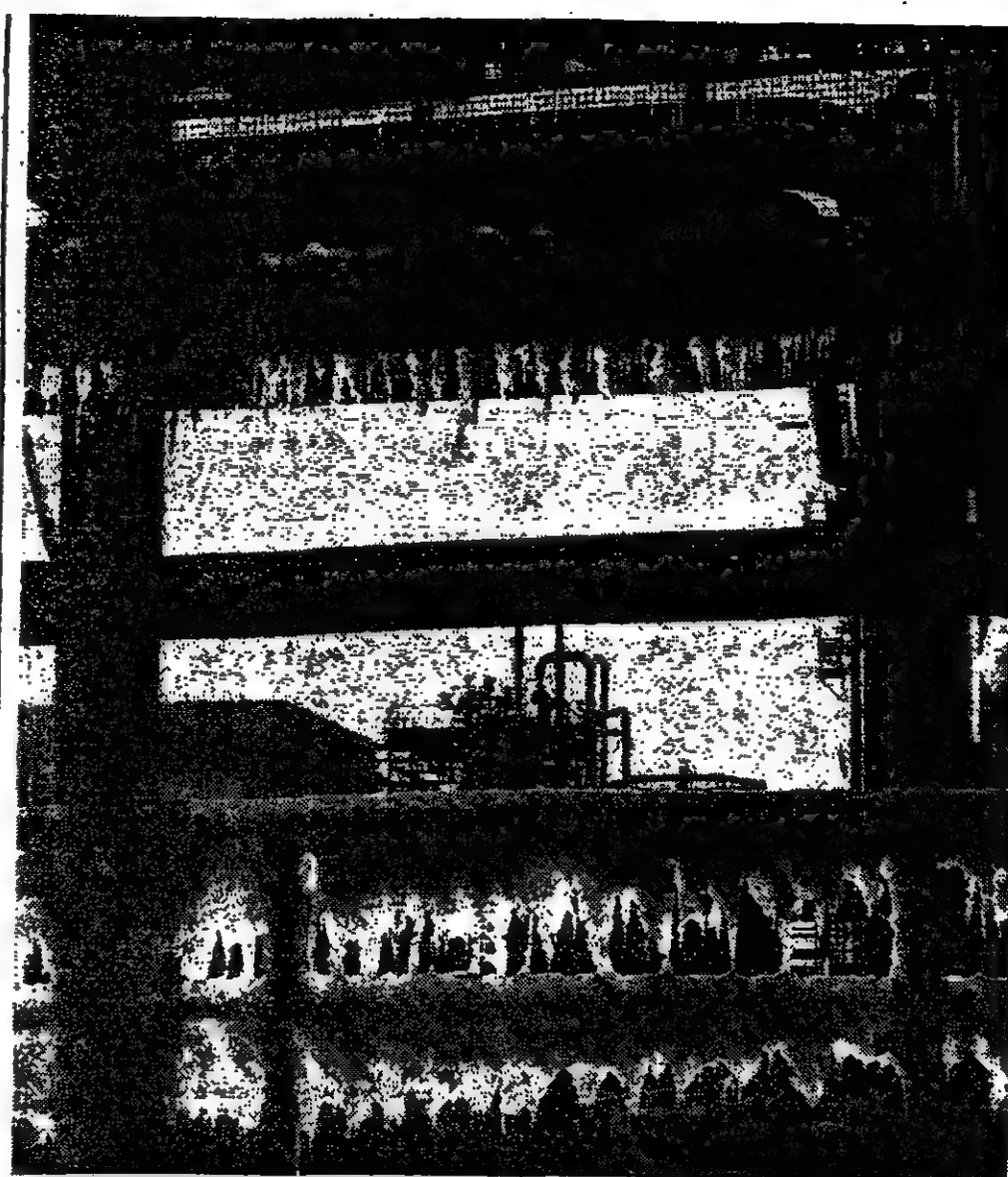
In the car industry, BL has been hit by high absenteeism, and Ford fears that the rail link for transporting engines between Bridgend and Halewood, presently closed because of snow, could be further affected by the train drivers' action.

British Rail has estimated that the 2-day strike could cost £12m in lost revenue and dramatically worsen its already serious financial difficulties.

Further industrial action planned for next week would add to the losses and BR fears that some of passengers and freight customers may decide not to return to the railways.

BR, which in the middle of last year projected losses for all of 1981 of £140 million has now revised its estimates downwards but could still have lost up to £60 million. The revision was due to the Government's decision last November to increase the Public Service Obligation grant, for socially desirable but uneconomic services, by £110 million.

The dispute could not have come at a worse time for BR as it wrestles with the recession. Passenger business is down 5 per cent, and as much as 9 per cent on some inter-city routes.



The icicle-clad coke oven plant at British Steel's Port Talbot works.

Steel 'snow scare' play for cuts

By Paul Routledge and Tony Hodges

Trade union leaders yesterday attacked the British Steel Corporation's claim that heavy snow has caused losses of £50m to £100m as "plainly absurd".

The unions are to meet the British Steel management next Monday to hear from Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the corporation, details of fresh economies on top of 12,000 job losses already envisaged this year.

But Mr William Sims, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, the industry's largest union, made clear yesterday that a trade union analysis conducted by plant workers revealed a very different picture from what he called the "fabricated crisis" suggested by British Steel.

He told a press conference: "Mr MacGregor is using the snow and the threat of an American ban on European steel imports as an excuse to re-write his corporate plan and possibly make further

cutbacks and works closures. As far as the American threat to European steel exports is concerned, Mr MacGregor has deliberately exaggerated the problems that will arise for British Steel."

"Mr MacGregor has fabricated the snow scare and exaggerated the American problem — perhaps to excuse the failure of his corporate plan," Mr Sims argued. "To talk of further closures now was ludicrous when BSC could not even meet today's customer demand, Mr Sims said. The corporation had only just announced that it had to import 15,000 tonnes of Brazilian steel to Scunthorpe that could have been supplied by plants such as Consett that were closed last year."

In a report prepared for the Centre for Policy Studies, steel unions have been accused of "attempting to thwart the MacGregor survival plan" at present and

preventing efficient development in the past.

By dragging their feet over every previous plant closure costing BSC and the country vast sums, lowering manpower productivity, preventing the full implementation of the development strategy and the really modern successful plants, according to Dr Elizabeth Cottrell, the report's author.

"One wonders if the unions will ever learn common sense. It is their own members whom they hurt most by their actions," she adds in her report entitled *The Giant With the Feet of Clay — The British Steel Industry 1945-1981*.

British Steel announced yesterday that it is to manufacture anchor chain for oil rigs and ships at its Scottish plant at Glenarnock in Ayrshire, thus saving 30 jobs which were set to disappear earlier.

Central Government borrowing on target

By John Whitmore

Further evidence that the Government is on line to meet its borrowing target for the financial year came with yesterday's figure for Central Government borrowing in the nine months to December.

This was £10,246m compared with the full-year target of no more than £11,500m, but the final quarter traditionally sees the government accounts close to bal-

ance, or even in surplus. Tradition is likely to triumph because during the final quarter, the Government aims to pull in at least a further £2,000m of tax outstanding from last summer's Civil Service dispute.

The Government puts the impact of that dispute so far on the Central Government borrowing requirement at about £3,000m, of which £400m to £450m represents

interest payments on the additional short-term borrowing needed due to hold-up in tax revenues.

In December itself, borrowing was £812m, or about £500m less than it would have been without the collection of back tax. The figure would have been smaller but for late claims for £250m refunds of value-added tax.

Consolidated fund expenditure has run slightly ahead of

target for the first nine months, but, any overshoot for the full year seems likely to be fully matched by higher-than-forecast revenue.

The signs are that the Government should be close to its estimated public sector borrowing requirement of £10,600m for the full financial year, but it is difficult to predict local authorities needs in the last quarter.

The jobs of hundreds of Belfast aircraft workers are pinned firmly on the success of the Boeing 757 twin-jet (Our Belfast correspondent writes). Short Brothers, the government-owned aerospace company, is heavily involved in production of the new aircraft with contracts worth at least £75m. With expected repeat orders, it could keep sections of the Belfast factories busy into the next century.

Inquiry into Royal Bank leak

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

The Stock Exchange is believed to be investigating the leakage of the Royal Bank of Scotland after leaks of the Monopolies Commission report on the bids.

Jobbers reported that about 500,000 Royal Bank shares were sold late on Friday, the day before Press reports suggested the bids might be blocked. When trading in the shares resumed on Monday they fell 5p to 142p.

Yesterday market men reported some interest in the shares which closed 2p up at 144p and later added another 5p after hours.

Meanwhile, Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, a Conservative MP and stockbroker, yesterday called for a full inquiry into "this outrageous leak".

The World Bank 'is no Robin Hood'

By Melvyn Westlake

The new American president is believed to have signalled an abrupt change of the bank's direction in a speech in Tokyo. Mr Alden Wainwright, replaced by pragmatism the grand vision of his predecessor, Mr Robert McNamara.

He said of the bank "It is not in the business of redistributing wealth from one set of countries to another set of countries. It is not the Robin Hood of the international financial set, nor the united way of the developing community."

The Bank is a hard-headed, unsentimental institution that takes a very pragmatic and non-political view. Some Third World diplomat in London interpreted the speech as a rejection of many of the Brandt Report proposals two years ago.

CBI lobbies on spending

More pressure for increased Government spending, including some on selected nationalized industries, is likely before the Budget from the Confederation of British Industry (Derek Harris writes). A range of options is being discussed in preparation for final decisions at the January council meeting, after which detailed representations will go to the Chancellor.

An early meeting of the CBI's new steering group to study the effects of unemployment was announced yesterday. The team of 13 — including one woman — is to work under the chairmanship of Sir Richard Cave, chairman of Thorn-EMI. The woman member is Mrs Mary Baker, chairman of the London Tourist Board.

Interest in Sperry

A number of leading British electronic companies are expected to be interested in purchasing Sperry Gyroscopes which is up for sale. Sperry Gyroscopes employs a total of 3,400 people in Bracknell, Plymouth and Weymouth. Among the companies are Ferranti, GEC, Plessey and British Aerospace.

Japanese prices

Japan's wholesale price index fell in December for the third consecutive month because of the yen's appreciation against the dollar, the Bank of Japan said. The fall was 0.1 per cent in November.

Pound under pressure

The rail shutdown and the threat of a miners' strike again depressed the pound in foreign currency trading yesterday.

It fell a further 1.20 cents to \$1.8745 against a stronger dollar to bring the total loss so far this week to 4.45 cents. It also dropped against Continental currencies and the yen. The index measuring sterling's wider international value fell 0.3 to 90.7.

The dollar continued its upward path, supported by higher Eurodollar deposit rates, though profit-taking and a downturn in dollar interest rates later in the day clipped earlier gains.

The takeover by Habitat, the home furnishings group of Mothercare will not be referred to the Monopolies Commission, Mr John Biffen said yesterday. Habitat's shares fell a further 5p to 108p. Many institutions agreed to underwrite the partial cash offer at 125p a share.

Underwriting agencies at Lloyd's of London should know today which of them will be liable to share a \$100m (£53.3m) insurance bill for some of the 70 ships held up in the Shatt al Arab waterway as a result of the Iran-Iraq war.

Mr Justice Stranghorne is due to announce his decision today on a dispute involving one of the German-owned ships. The insurance figure is unlikely to be large, but the result should determine

which agencies are reliable for claims — those writing for Risk, Blocking and Trapping. Blocking and Trapping has been a class of business written since the Suez crisis.

The ships have been held up for over a year. They have a total insurance value of about £400m. Some claims have been settled, but those for which Lloyd's are liable are still outstanding until it is decided which agencies bear the risk.

The markets remain extremely nervous about the outlook for American interest rates. Many analysts fear a tightening of United States money policy in the wake of poor money supply figures and buoyant credit demand.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Lloyd's Liability Ruling

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Brewery purchase

The Manchester Boddington Breweries, with 272 public houses, is buying Oldham Brewery seven miles up the road. It thus acquires 86 more outlets for its modernized plant, on which it has just spent £3.5m.

Fears of Monopolies Commission objections have so far stopped other brewers from intervening. Moreover, Boddingtons is willing to pay £24m, a figure that Oldham's directors and their adviser, merchant banker Kleinwort Benson, could not resist.

Apart from the 1.5 per cent of Oldham's shares held by the board, Whitbread Investment and Allied Breweries are accepting for their own stakes.

Alfa Romeo men agree to lay offs

Unions and workers have approved plans for Alfa Romeo, Italy's second largest car makers, to close its plants for three weeks from January 28 to February 8 to reduce stocks of unsold cars. About 20,000 workers will be laid off. Negotiations are continuing about additional company plans to lay off 7,100 workers throughout the year.

French output of crude steel fell 8.2 per cent to 21.27m tonnes in 1981. Pig iron production last year dropped 9.8 per cent to 17.28m.

TODAY

Building Society monthly statistics (postponed from Tuesday). Industrial Production - Wales. ACC board meeting. Habitat Mothercare shareholders. Mothercare meetings to approve merger.

Diamond sales drop by 46pc

Diamond sales by the Central Selling Organization fell by 46 per cent last year to \$1,472m. Sales in 1980 were \$2,749m, a decline of 42 per cent. A weak market brought on by high interest rates and the recession was the main cause, but the CSO's policy of withholding Moscow's oil and gas exports from dealers was a contributory factor.

Financial Editor page 13

First by-election for Lloyd's

Lloyd's holds its first by-election today to elect a new committee member following the sudden resignation in November of Mr Robert Kiln, one of the most senior members. Controversial Lloyd's underwriter Mr Ian Posgate who heads Alexander Howden Underwriting and Mr Peter Daniels, managing director of Lambert Brothers are standing for election.

ACC board meets

The 12 directors of Associated Communications Corporation meet today for what many believe could be the last time Lord Grade conducts a full board meeting. It is now firmly believed that Lord Grade will step aside in favour of Australian Mr Robert Homes a Court, who will make a full bid for the group. He already owns half the non-voting shares.

Swiss unemployment in December jumped to 0.3 per cent from 0.2 per cent in November and 0.2 per cent in December 1980.

SGB GROUP

REDUCED GROUP PROFIT IN SPITE OF IMPROVEMENTS OVERSEAS

Final dividend increased

Preliminary Announcement
Year ended 26th September 1981

	1981	1980
Group Turnover	£'000	£'000
Group Profit before Tax	9,235	139,549
Group Profit after Tax and Minorities	12,515	16,283
Shareholders' Funds	6,449	11,617
Earnings per Share	15.7p	28.6p
Current Cost Profit before Tax	8,901	12,187
Current Cost Profit attributable to Shareholders	2,891	7,595
Current Cost Earnings per Share	7.0p	18.7p

In the UK, the recession has resulted in a substantial drop in profitability, all the main UK groups being affected. Overseas, our operations, particularly in Africa the Middle East Australia and direct exports, showed much improved results. Total group borrowings have been reduced by some £7 million during the year.

Dividend. At the annual general meeting to be held on 9th March, 1982, a final dividend of 3.3p per share will be recommended, resulting in a total dividend of 5.6p for the year.

The full Report and Accounts will be posted to shareholders on Monday, 8th February, 1982.

SGB Group Limited,
Mitcham, Surrey CR4 4TQ

Stock Markets

FT Index 524.6 down 6.0
FT Cils 61.92 down 0.22
FT All Share 306.22
down 2.79
Bargains 13,246

Sterling

\$1.8745 down 120 pts
Index 90.7 down 0.3

Dollar

Index 108.4 up 0.2
DM 2.2855 up 40 pts

Gold

\$388.75 down 25 cents
New York: \$412.70

Money

3 mth sterling 15 1/4-15 1/2
3 mth Euro 14 1/4-14 1/2
6 mth Euro 15 1/4-15 1/2

PRICE CHANGES

Rises

Bellows Rand 5p to 425p
Collins K 3p to 90p
Elliott H 4p to 96p
Eng & N York 3p to 89p
Farmer SW 4p to 136p
French T 5p to 95p
Grootvlei 10p to 405p
Lesh Bdr 10p to 790p
Lasso 3p to 397p
Rand Mine Pmp 5p to 315p
Sentrust 10p to 142p
SGB Group 8p to 578p
Ud Scientific 3p to 68p
Wadkin 3p to 371p
Willis aber 3p to 371p

Falls

Castlefield 10p to 430p
Churchbury Est 10p to 625p
Dunsmuir 30p to 476p
Eurotherm Int 25p to 230p
Fed Land 12p to 148p
Husky Oil 30p to 425p
IU Int 15p to 690p
Klaros 15p to 550p
Middle Wits 15p to 610p
Ranger Oil 18p to 370p
Saatchi 10p to 351p
Standard Ind 13p to 563p
Sudair 10p to 363p
Tunnel Hldgs B 10p to 515p
Venterpost 11p to 391p

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

S G B figures better than feared

By Margaret Pagano

Mr Gray's statement on the group's performance in the year to September, 1981, was better than expected. The group's profit before tax was £12.5m, compared with £10.5m in the year to September 1980. Sales were £123.5m, compared with £119.5m in the year to September 1980. The group's dividend in the year to September 1981 was 5p, compared with 4.5p in the year to September 1980.

By gross, the group's shares rose 8p to 146p. But it is clear that trading over the year, last December and January SGB made no profit at all - has been very difficult with only the usual seasonal upturn helping the second half. In the first half, profits were down 35 per cent at £5m.

Trading in the UK divisions has continued to deteriorate. The group, Britain's largest independent scaffolding and plant-hire concern, has cut the workforce by 10 per cent to 6,040, but hopes that further redundancies and reorganisation will not be necessary.



Mr Neville Clifford-Jones

Lincroft Kilgour returns to dividends and profits

A return to profits and dividends was reported yesterday by Lincroft Kilgour, the London-based cloth merchant and menswear manufacturing group. Although business remained at a low level in the year to end-September, Lincroft managed to make a trading profit of £143,000, against a loss of £361,000.

With higher investment income and an exchange surplus there was an exchange deficit last time - there is a pretax profit of £321,000, against a £425,000 loss. Turnover was reduced from £13.9m to £10.5m.

Ordinary shareholders receive a payment of 1.42p gross a share. There was no payment last year.

Gold Fields Gold Fields of South Africa received R13,243 a kilo-gramme for its gold in the quarter to the end of last year, an increase of R680 over the previous three months. The average yield fell from 9.8 grammes per tonne to 9.7 and there was a 0.6 per cent increase in working costs to R45.14 a tonne.

Ratners profit halved as overheads soar

Rising overheads are overwhelming Ratners (Jewellers), Britain's third largest high street jeweller. Mr Leslie Ratner, the chairman, said yesterday.

Announcing more than halved pretax profits of £234,000 for the six months to October 6, despite an 8 per cent increase in sales to £10.4m, Mr Ratner offered comfort for the traditionally strong third quarter because bad weather had disrupted the Christmas trade.

Despite a record Christmas in 1980, profits for the last full year dropped by 35 per cent to £2.22m.

CORRECTED NOTICE

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

To Holders Of

International Standard Electric Corporation

8 1/4% Sinking Fund Debentures Due 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to Section 3.02 of the Indenture dated as of February 1, 1971 between International Standard Electric Corporation and Bank of America National Trust and Savings Association, Trustee, (the "Indenture"), \$744,000 principal amount of International Standard Electric Corporation 8 1/4% Sinking Fund Debentures due 1986 (the "Debentures") have been called for redemption on February 1, 1982 (the "Redemption Date") through the operation of the Sinking Fund at 100% of the principal amount thereof, together with interest thereon at the rate of 8 1/4% per annum to the Redemption Date. Pursuant to Section 3.03 of the Indenture, the Trustee has selected for redemption on February 1, 1982 the following Debentures, to wit:

1,000 COUNCIL DEBENTURES, EACH BEARING THE PREFIX LETTER "M"											
38	1954	3185	4194	5229	6733	7820	10231	11789	12969	15291	17688
67	1970	3214	4317	5244	6782	7823	10640	11786	12964	15300	17713
95	1975	3238	4329	5253	6784	7854	10775	11800	12995	15317	17719
220	1979	3239	4330	5259	6786	8002	10776	11802	13017	15319	17720
300	1982	3257	4355	5271	6792	8052	10802	11844	13018	15350	17723
317	2000	3258	4413	5302	6802	8057	10903	11814	13027	15396	17731
388	2001	3273	4453	5311	6812	8065	10935	11821	13069	15402	17780
545	2005	3282	4453	5374	6822	8110	10941	11822	13108	15438	17781
720	2008	3297	4444	5433	6859	8134	10957	11845	13209	15438	17894
781	2009	3338	4453	5485	6907	8171	10971	11964	13212	15531	17915
832	2104	3376	4521	5487	6974	8177	10992	11965	13240	15547	17916
846	2113	3393	4532	5487	6981	8248	11021	11966	13258	15583	17939
930	2121	3394	4539	5533	7013	8293	11036	11970	13285	15594	17968
939	2132	3399	4545	5540	7016	8295	11068	11987	13294	15655	17969
964	2145	3408	4571	5570	7036	8302	11081	11991	13365	15655	17993
983	2178	3446	4591	5579	7037	8423	11091	11992	13365	15655	18038
1024	2179	3448	4593	5594	7065	8429	11147	11994	13372	15655	18062
1042	2263	3452	4676	5596	7071	8517	11149	12033	13819	15615	18063
1058	2265	3461	4691	5601	7079	8580	11153	12076	13820	15640	18064
1061	2300	3476	4692	5610	7099	8586	11167	12077	13848	15659	18081
1077	2303	3481	4727	5628	7110	8620	11219	12110	13852	15660	18103
1119	2360	3493	4732	5644	7123	8626	11223	12117	13888	15687	18107
1129	2366	3495	4737	5661	7145	8675	11279	12178	13889	15696	18237
1230	2366	3498	4788	5689	7147	8688	11337	12226	13890	15688	18259
1287	2397	3519	4792	5705	7166	8705	11344	12251	13895	15689	18268
1359	2443	3569	4798	5711	7222	8726	11359	12252	13920	15681	18267
1366	2449	3575	4807	5750	7224	8733	11360	12254	14033	16000	18302
1370	2449	3581	4812	5758	7232	8739	11372	12271	14034	16001	18303
1405	2498	3680	4816	5767	7249	8753	11387	12272	14092	16001	18450
1461	2500	3682	4826	5769	7254	8761	11401	12273	14113	16211	18472
1511	2580	3673	4832	5771	7289	8781	11468	12292	14129	16505	18473
1547	2583	3680	4845	5784	7285	8814	11469	12298	14165	16534	18506
1574	2589	3707	4854	5816	7298	8842	11478	12312	14166	16539	18549
1578	2589	3710	4862	5826	7342	8858	11482	12326	14169	16557	18570
1585	2664	3717	4871	5825	7350	8859	11500	12332	14190	16578	18589
1590	2680	3725	4880	5877	7369	8874	11519	12333	14191	16860	18613
1619	2681	3726	4885	5910	7373	8889	11531	12349	14192	16940	18617
1642	2687	3751	4946	6079	7394	8911	11557	12354	14222	17028	18631
1649	2758	3773	4950	6190	7395	8933	11574	12368	14238	17083	18632
1658	2788	3804	4955	6191	7416	8956	11578	12392	14311	17084	18667
1661	2801	3817	4974	6240	7420	8940	11588	12430	14327	17109	18689
1680	2843	3834	4989	6248	7435	8944	11589	12431	14328	17171	18701
1708	2855	3842	5003	6263	7451	8953	11593	12443	14329	17172	18738
1714	2855	3852	5042	6271	7477	8971	11600	12495	14387	17264	18903
1720	2861	3879	5057	6285	7508	8901	11601	12508	14433	17284	18917
1722	2865	3888	5082	6445	7521	8936	11614	12528	14454	17288	18929
1732	2911	3913	5085	6472	7546	8931	11634	12527	14455	17449	18921
1750	2928	3925	5110	6474	7601	8952	11647	12549	14490	17499	18936
1786	2945	3926	5116	6497	7628	8963	11655	12711	14517	17500	18936
1805	2970	3961	5128	6512	7642	8971	11663	12724	14543	17513	18992
1820	2975	3975	5163	6533	7741	8743	11686	12742	14554	17551	19017
1835	3035	3989	5169	6540	7772	10062	11687	12743	14555	17566	19038
1845	3071	4044	5176	6598	7792	10068	11684	12792	15096	17565	19095
1853	3071	4044	5176	6606	7837	10069	11733	12805	15096	17576	19185
1865	3090	4180	5205	6626	7841	10193	11763	12860	15173	17648	19212
1881	3101	4172	5224	6668	7875	10208	11764	12848	15190	17673	19238
1912	3173	4174	5226	6715	7900	10221	11765	12959	15191	17687	19386
1924	3181	4189									

On February 1, 1982 the Debentures designated above will become due and payable and are required to be presented and surrendered for redemption and payment on or after said date at any of the following places of payment:

Citibank, N.A. 111 Wall Street New York, New York U.S.A.	Algemeine Bank Nederland N.V. Amsterdam, Netherlands
Credito Italiano Milan, Italy	Banque de Bruxelles S.A. Brussels, Belgium
Banque Generale du Luxembourg S.A. Luxembourg	Deutsche Bank Aktiengesellschaft Frankfurt/Main Federal Republic of Germany
Bank of America NT&SA London, England	Banque Nationale de Paris S.A. Paris, France

The Debentures must be accompanied by all interest coupons appertaining thereto maturing after February 1, 1982.

Interest on the Debentures so called for redemption shall cease to accrue from and after February 1, 1982, and the interest coupons appertaining thereto maturing after said date shall be void.

International Standard Electric Corporation
By BANK OF AMERICA N.T.&S.A.
Trustee

Dated: December 30, 1981

Sharp rise in first half at Hogg Robinson

By Our Financial Staff

Insurance broker Hogg Robinson has raised pretax profits by more than a third from £2.32m to £3.11m in the half-year to September 30. However, the group is paying an unchanged half-year dividend of 4.25p gross.

Mr Morris Abbott, the chairman, said that in companies with most other companies, the year was proving very difficult in many parts of the business. He said that the increase in profits has been achieved despite this, largely because of the broad spread of the group's interests.

Mr Abbott said that higher profits had also come about because of the expansion in the group's business, which was reflected in the 26 per cent rise in turnover to £23.6m, and the continuing scrutiny of all cost areas.

Kenning slashes its final dividend

By Philip Robinson

Derbyshire car distributor Kenning Motor Group yesterday slashed its final dividend on pretax profits which came out just £400,000 lower at £3.5m, on sales little changed at £257m.

But the group figures benefited from a first-time contribution from Zimbabwe where profits more than doubled to £4.5m. In the United Kingdom losses for the year to the end of last September were trimmed to just under £1m from a first-half figure of £1.7m.

The dividend cut had been expected given the tight margins on cars as a result of cut-throat discounting among competitors. Kenning is paying 2.5p gross final dividend giving a total for the year of 5p against 7.85p last time.

Courts up 60pc midway

Courts Furniture, the Surrey-based retailers of household furniture, has raised its pretax profit by 60 per cent to £1.6m, despite difficult trading at home. The shares rose 4p to 76p.

Mr Edmund Cohen, the chairman, said yesterday that the group's overseas subsidiaries, in Australia, Fiji, Barbados and Singapore, were responsible for the increased profit.

Turnover went up by nearly 20 per cent to £30.7m and the company says the pattern of strong overseas performance with weak trading in the United Kingdom has continued into the third

Lloyds to finance £80m rig for BNOC

by Peter Wilson-Smith

Lloyds Bank's leasing subsidiary is providing more than £80m for an advanced deep-water drilling rig to be used by the state-owned British National Oil Corporation, in the largest leasing deal ever arranged by a single company in the United Kingdom.

The rig, Ben Ocean Ranger, will be one of the biggest and most sophisticated in the world, able to drill in up to 4,500 feet of water. British Shipbuilders will build it at its Scot Lithgow yard and the order will help to safeguard 5,000 jobs on Clydeside.

The rig will be chartered by BNOC and its partner, Ben Odeco, through joint company, St Vincent Drilling, for an initial period of 6 1/2 years. Ben Odeco will supervise building an manage the rig after delivery, expected in March 1984, when BNOC plans to use it in deep waters north and west of the Shetlands. The rig can operate at three times the depth of the largest of the present generation of anchored semi-submersible rigs.

Although having been leased in the past, this one is about £10m larger than the previous biggest by a single leasing company, and is a further indication of how important leasing has become as a source of finance for capital investment.

In 1980, leasing was used to finance £2,359m of assets compared with £1,214m in 1980 and only £130m in 1972.

Stock Markets

Strike worries confine interest to bids

Faced with the prospect of strikes by the train drivers, only the brave or foolhardy were willing to open new positions yesterday.

So turnover was again on the low side with much of the running in equities taken up by bids and company news. The FT Index was 7.7 down at 10am, but recovered slightly to close with a net fall of 0.35 points at 524.5.

Guity recorded a firm trend supported by the overnight strength on Wall Street. However, the low level of business saw falls of around 1/4 in longs and around 1/2 in shorts.

Bands were again a focal point following reports earlier in the week that the Government had turned down the two bids for Royal Bank of Scotland worth almost £500m. Nevertheless, there appeared to be a growing band of supporters who felt

there was some reason for doubt, and this was reflected in the price of Royal Bank, which added 7p to 149p.

Meanwhile, Hongkong & Shanghai lost 2p to 137p and Standard Chartered, the other contender, was 13p off at 663p.

Acceptances of the one-for-nine rights issue, as the shares are tightly held, were received for only 76.25 per cent of the 1.6m new shares made available. Rea Brothers took the unusual step of pitching the rights issue price at the market rate of 90p. The price closed last night unchanged at 95p.

Sir Hector Leung's resignation from the board of Allied-Lyons renewed speculation that Allied is poised to bid for Heston & Palmer, but failed to stir that group's shares which were unchanged at 89p. Sir Hector, chairman of United Biscuits, explained that his departure was due solely to a conflict of interest with Allied's increased involvement in the food industry. But on take-over plans he would say only that if a bid goes through then he would have to resign anyway.

Vague rumours of a dawn raid lifted Turner & Newall 5p to 93p yesterday. However, the 20 per cent of the equity sale, which was expected to be explained by bullish circulars from two brokers, Phillips & Drew and Smith Keen Cutler, who both regard the shares as a strong recovery possibility in 1982.

Rio Tinto-Zinc increase its stake in Thos. W. Ward by a few thousand shares, taking its holding above 31 per cent. With acceptance for 35p per share of Ward's shares, RTZ

now controls almost 35 per cent of the cement maker. RTZ, yesterday sent a letter to shareholders giving details of its increased 230p-a-share bid, which will lapse after January 25. Ward was unchanged at 231p.

There was renewed speculative attention in shares of London & Overseas Freighters - the subject of a dawn raid last month by Indonesian businessman Mr Faisol Hashim who netted just over 20 per cent of the equity. Last night the price rose to 56p amid hopes that Mr Hashim may bid for the remainder or at least a third party may reveal itself.

In the meantime, Habitat's merger with Mothercare received official approval from the Monopolies Commission, with Habitat losing 5p to 108p and Mothercare staying unchanged at 158p.

Bur Saatchi & Saatchi fell 10p to 35p, still reflecting the possibility of the loss of the lucrative contract with the Conservative Party. Equity turnover on January 11 was £32.67m (12,001 bargains).

Latest results

Company	Sales in Pounds	Profits per share	Earnings per share	Div pence	Pay date	Year's total
Bett Bros. (F)	17,658(20.5)	1.71(2.26)	26.01(7.2)	1.9(1.9)	15/5	3.1(3.1)
Calcedonian Clise. (I)	5,574(74.5)	0.19(0.52)	—	2(2)	12/2	—(9.0)
Cos. (Form.) (I)	30,639(25.58)	1.64(1.02)	—	—	—(20.5)	—
K. O. Boardman (I)	7,288(75.5)	0.26(0.26)	0.02(0.73)	—	—	—(0.25)
London & N. Wales (I)	—	0.21(0.15a)	—	—	—	—
Investors Capital (F)	—	4.68(5.24)	3.28(3.45)	1.6(1.5)	11/3	3.5(3.05)
Hollis Group (I)	15.5(17.67)	0.8(0.855)	4.54(4.1)	2(2)	14	6.0
Hogg Robinson (I)	23.8(16.7)	3.11(2.32)	—	3(3)	31/3	—(6.0)
Kentish (I)	267(1.7)	1.5(5.9)	11.9(10.2)	1.3(1.7)	14	2.5(5.5)
Kilgallon (F)	10.5(13.18)	0.32(0.42)	5.1(11.16a)	1.0(—)	14	1.0(—)
Oakwood (F)	9.91(9.87)	0.59(0.71)	35.5(26.6)	3.5(5.5)	3/3	6.5(4.5)
Rainers (I)	10.38(9.58)	0.20(0.54)	0.6(0.6)	5(3)	5/3	—(2.3)
SGS (F)	33.2(19.5)	12.8(16.5)	15.7(28.6)	3.5(5.5)	26/2	—(3.5)
Sheep & Simpson (I)	19.1(18.3)	0.81(1.15)	—	1(1)	—	—

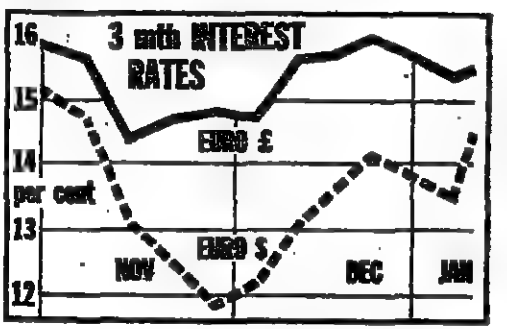
Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.425. Profits are shown pretax and earnings are net.a=Loss. b=Gross.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Interest rate jitters in New York

New York has got financial markets off to a fine start to 1982 with its latest round of interest rate jitters. Against a background of medium-term uncertainty over dollar interest rates this year, markets tend to respond badly to any piece of faintly discouraging financial news. And so it has been this week. Last Friday's small fall in United States money supply was considered disappointing and the market is already bracing itself for a substantial increase when the next set of weekly figures appears.

While all this obsession with weekly figures may seem to be hyper-sensitive, it is a fact of market life and symptomatic of deeper worries. For whatever the short-term trend in United States money supply figures the fact remains that target growth for the United States money supply this year is once again well below the likely growth in money gdp. In other words, the prospective monetary squeeze remains tight and, as many American observers fear, this means that at some stage in the year there is likely to be at least one round of fresh upward pressure on interest rates.



As over the last couple of days, every time the market takes it into its head that a sharp upward movement in rates may be just around the corner, international funds start to move strongly into the dollar. The reverse side of that coin is downward pressure on other currencies and the need for governments and central banks to reassess their priorities between holding their own domestic interest rates up in an effort to bolster their currencies.

The obvious danger for the United Kingdom at the moment is that the worry about a fresh rise in United States interest rates could coincide with a period when domestic labour troubles could put sterling firmly out of favour. On the basis of the United Kingdom authorities' attitude to exchange rate developments last autumn, sterling still has several percentage points of cushion underneath it before the alarm bells start to ring.

The difference this time round, however, is that whereas there were good reasons on the basis of domestic monetary growth for the United Kingdom authorities to support higher interest rates last September, those reasons are probably considerably less compelling this time round.

At the moment, the policy is clearly to see the banking system through the present tax paying season with all the help possible to prevent interest rates from rising, and one suspects that the initial response to any further downward pressure on sterling resulting from higher dollar interest rates would be greater intervention in the foreign exchange markets.

The more interesting question is the response that might be forthcoming should the miners move into a damaging strike. To allow sterling to fall temporarily and bank on a significant correction might be a wiser bet than use of the interest rate lever.

British Steel Pressure for more cutbacks

It now looks certain that Mr Ian Macgregor's jobs axe will be swinging into action again. The latest bombshell to be dropped by British Steel Corporation's chief is that original production targets at 14.4 million tonnes cannot be maintained and more jobs are likely to go.

How much blame can be laid at the

doorstep of Britain's appalling weather conditions, which could cost the Corporation as much as £100m in the current year, is difficult to assess, but damage has been done just at a time when it looked as though industry was getting back on course.

But the anti-dumping suits filed by United States steelmen is far more disturbing because it hits British Steel, as well as other European producers in the profitable specialist products market. Although the action by American steel-makers is going to hurt their action was hardly unexpected. After all they regard the importing of British and other European steel as being unfair competition because the industry is so heavily subsidized.

In the current year BSC expected to sell between 300,000 tonnes and 400,000 tonnes of high quality specialist steel products to the United States, while next year the Corporation forecasted exports up by about 100,000 tonnes. In terms of BSC's overall production figures American exports are not large, only two or three per cent.

Monday's statement from Mr Macgregor now looks as though it has been timed to prepare the unions, Government and the public for further cuts in the workforce and plant closures. His plans for a slim-down to about 92,000 by this summer have already taken a knock and the proposed reduction has been deferred to next year. It appears feasible in light of recent events that a further 20,000 could lose their jobs as the Corporation attempts to stem the rising tide of losses caused by the atrocious weather and the United States anti-dumping action.

Mr Macgregor has also forecast a break-even in the financial year 1982-83. As he admitted on Monday a deep shadow has now been cast over that ambition and a reappraisal is taking place over the coming few weeks to see what action has to be taken to put the ailing Corporation back on the rails.

Diamonds A difficult market

After a year of gloomy tales from diamond dealers the Central Selling Organization yesterday provided hard evidence of how bad the market has been. CSO sales slumped 46 per cent last year to \$1,472m, probably below even what De Beers expected. Since the first half figures were 40 per cent lower at \$940m, the downward trend appears to have accelerated in the second six months despite a modest rise in American Christmas sales.

The weakness of the market is just another sign of the difficulties facing all tangible assets: high interest rates and the squeeze on disposable incomes are particularly dangerous for a blatant luxury such as diamonds. So large rough stones for investment could barely find buyers, and it was only specialized qualities such as the very small stones cut in Bombay or the new and rising markets of south east Asia and South America which showed any life.

But the poor results were not just caused by low demand. They were also the deliberate outcome of the CSO's efforts to calm the market and ease some of the pressure in the cutting centres by withholding stones. Sights have been smaller than usual and the syndicate has tried harder to match the stones offered to what dealers can sell. Stocks of rough and polished stones have fallen sharply in the cutting centres.

Du Beers' grip on the market is as strong as ever. But the company must be paying a high price for its determination to maintain its preeminence. Even if De Beers has reduced its own diamond output, the company still stands in the market accepting some 80 per cent of the world's diamond production. The strain must also be felt by Anglo-American, itself suffering from a feeble gold price. Until underlying demand recovers, however, and De Beers can feed more stones to the dealers we should expect more dull news from the CSO.

● The arguments over individual privacy remain largely unresolved in Britain. But in America large corporations are taking the lead.

New York In America, where corporations have a reputation for knowing almost as much about an employee's wife as about the employee himself, the notion of employees' right to privacy may sound as welcome as a Japanese computer.

And, with the accusatory logic that the innocent have nothing to hide, who would come forward on behalf of workers, especially collar executives on whom the most pernicious and personal files would be kept? Surprisingly, the companies themselves have taken the initiative. In the four years in which employee rights have been advocated by government and business groups, nearly 500 American corporations have agreed to limit the amount of information they will demand of employees. They have also vowed to protect what they do receive from unwarranted access from both within and outside the company.

Among the new defenders of employee rights are half of the Fortune 500 industrial giants and major companies depending for their livelihoods on what they know about their customers' personal lives.

Some large corporations in insurance, banking and computerized data retrieval have taken the lead in protecting their employees' privacy in a general effort to protect information gathered about applicants and customers as well as employees.

Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States and IBM began the self-regulation which was followed by Citibank, Chase Manhattan, American Express. Even government contractors like Northrop Corporation, the aerospace manufacturer, have devised ways to isolate the information collected for employee government-security clearances.

They seek, as a booklet put out by Equitable, "to end to the collection of irrelevant information, not to the collection of all information." Thus with self-control the companies may avoid control from the outside.

An indirect result of the Washington investigation, Privacy Principles, which is mirrored in Equitable's policy according to Cabot, is to empower individuals to enforce fairness as they see it rather than depend on a government or company body to patrol information gathering.

Evans Hendricks, editor of the Washington magazine, Privacy Principles, emphasizes the sensitivity that companies must show to make the protection of privacy work. Pointing to Equitable, he notes that not only was it among the first to establish privacy guidelines but it has also pursued "the little things" which Hendricks believes add up to an effective policy.

"We did not want to be burdensome and so recommended a two-year period

Equitable's seven principles

● To ensure its employees' and customers' privacy, Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States, undertakes to:

1. Request and use only that personal information which is pertinent to the effective conduct of business.
2. Consider personal information collected and maintained to be of a confidential nature, recognizing our responsibility to provide adequate safeguards to maintain that confidentiality.
3. Refuse to make available without the knowledge of the individual, personal information outside the Equitable or its subsidiaries, except to provide routine service or as required by law.
4. Make available to employees and agents, upon proper request, any information we maintain on them, recognizing our obligation to protect the privacy of the source of the information.
5. Make available to policy owners and applicants, upon proper request, any information we maintain on them, recognizing our obligation to protect the privacy of the source of the information and, in the case of medical information, supplying that through the individual's designated physician.
6. Correct or delete any information found to be inaccurate, thus recognizing the importance of using timely and accurate information so that action adverse to an individual is not based on erroneous data.
7. Expect all employees and agents to conform to our well-established ethical standards as to the confidentiality of personal information held by The Equitable.



US business comes clean on personal files

When trade associations and businesses themselves could establish their own guidelines." Professor Linowes believes that good progress has been made but more is needed, and favours the omnibus bills being considered by Congress to protect individuals' medical and financial data as a way of bringing uncommitted companies in line.

Edward Cabot, vice-president and associate general counsel at Equitable, also agrees with the need for legislation, but he emphasizes that it cannot provide the same protection as the willing compliance of an employer.

His company's so-called "privacy principles" go back to March 1976, soon after the commission started and the company first became aware of the issues. Cabot headed the company study group which made protection hinge on limiting the amount of information asked for and then letting both employees and insurance applicants see what is recorded and correct or amend it if necessary. The information is kept confidential and destroyed after it is no longer needed.

The key to the commission's report, which is mirrored in Equitable's policy according to Cabot, is to empower individuals to enforce fairness as they see it rather than depend on a government or company body to patrol information gathering.

Evans Hendricks, editor of the Washington magazine, Privacy Principles, emphasizes the sensitivity that companies must show to make the protection of privacy work. Pointing to Equitable, he notes that not only was it among the first to establish privacy guidelines but it has also pursued "the little things" which Hendricks believes add up to an effective policy.



"The idea is to have minimum intrusiveness. If information is not needed, it should not be asked for."

Professor David Linowes, chairman of the Federal Privacy Protection Study Commission

Indeed, so proud is the insurer of its work that its pamphlet, printed to celebrate its changed attitude toward privacy, has the ring of a revivalist meeting. It notes that "it is now appropriate three years after the articulation of The Equitable's privacy principles, to evaluate our success in adapting operating procedures to comply with those

principles. It is time to look critically at each principle and relate it to Equitable's role as insurer, employer and corporate citizen."

Such self-consciousness leads to good policy, like its system of having benefits claims made by New York employees handled by other offices "so that there can be no opportunity for the 'curious' to gain access to personal information about fellow employees". In addition, the company destroyed a lot of outdated personnel files and rewrote its authorization forms to limit what it could ask for.

What is the information to which an employee should have access? Professor Linowes, whose commission set the guidelines for American corporations says: "The idea is to have minimum intrusiveness. If information is not needed, it should not be asked for or put into the records. An employee need not necessarily see his whole file, especially relating to promotion and job evaluation, but he should know what's being done with the information."

The Government commission guidelines have been taken up by influential trade groups like the United States Chamber of Commerce and the Business Roundtable, while the government is promoting the cause of the guidelines established in 1980 by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

According to William Fishman, the American negotiator at the OECD discussions: "No other country, including the United King-

dom, approaches the United States compliance." The Secretary of Commerce has urged endorsement among United States companies and a two-person unit in the Department of Commerce has encouraged more than 140 companies to adopt the guidelines.

Without mentioning employer-employee relations specifically, the OECD document broadly follows the recommendations of the United States commission. According to Arthur Bushkin, who was also on the American negotiating team at the OECD, The United States preferred to pinpoint different areas of concern, like financial, medical and personnel records, while the Europeans opted for an omnibus approach that left most of the responsibility in the hands of government.

Though the Americans were equally concerned with government intrusion on individual privacy, the Europeans were satisfied to ensure enforcement of individual rights to government.

Professor Linowes says that he is proud that his commission's report was used by the OECD negotiators, but he is more interested in controlling data flow between countries than the protection of individual rights. Stopping the data flow would of course protect individuals, but not for the issue of civil liberties which motivated the American commission.

American business has been as receptive to the OECD guidelines as to the indigenous programmes. There is the extra incentive of knowing that failure to adopt the OECD procedure may stop the trans-border data flow, as some countries have threatened.

Those who have followed the progress of American companies on this issue have noted, as did Evans Hendricks, that "this is one of the few areas where business really has tried to get out in front of a social issue."

"Senator Sam Ervin tried for 10 years to get a privacy act passed," according to Professor Linowes. "But not until Watergate did anyone pay any attention."

The force of opinion then produced a freedom of information and privacy Act that allowed individuals to get an unprecedented amount of information out of government, including FBI and CIA files.

Corporate willingness to expose its own flanks grew out of the same reforming mood of the country. And at a time when the Reagan Administration is attempting to curtail individuals' rights to get information from the FBI and CIA on national security grounds, American corporations continue to adhere to the principles to which they agreed.

Frank Lipsius

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation

Incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability

Notice of Forfeiture of partly paid Rights Shares of HK\$2.50 each

On 2 November 1981 an announcement appeared as an advertisement in the press in Hong Kong and the United Kingdom informing holders of partly paid Rights Shares who had overlooked their obligation to make payment of the Final Call of HK\$6 per share by 22 October 1981 that the Directors of the Bank had decided not to implement the right to forfeit the Rights Shares, provided that payment of HK\$6 per partly paid Rights Share (together with interest at the rate of 20 per cent per annum on the amount overdue from 22 October 1981 until the date of payment) was made not later than 3 p.m. (Hong Kong time) on 15 December 1981.

On 19 November 1981 a circular was sent to all persons whose names appeared as the registered holders of partly paid Rights Shares on which the Final Call had not then been paid reminding them of their obligation to make payment of the Final Call and stating that failure to pay the relevant amount by 3 p.m. (Hong Kong time) on 15 December 1981 would result in the partly paid Rights Shares being liable to forfeiture for the benefit of the Bank.

The holders of 337,260 partly paid Rights Shares have failed to pay the Final Call on such shares by the due date, as a consequence of which such partly paid Rights Shares have been duly forfeited to the Bank by resolution of the Directors of the Bank passed at a Board Meeting held on 12 January 1982. Individual notifications are being despatched to the relevant persons.

All certificates representing partly paid Rights Shares are no longer valid and should be returned for cancellation to Central Registration Hong Kong Limited, Hopewell Centre, 17th Floor Mezzanine, 183 Queen's Road East, Hong Kong.

By Order of the Board
F. R. Frame
Secretary

Hong Kong, 13 January 1982

Business Diary: Those BA boxes ● Sea change

British Airways has abandoned what it thought was its pioneering cost-cutting exercise of providing passengers with some of the European routes with carry-on meal boxes.

Now BA cabin staff distribute the meals on board, but they are still packed in the offensive boxes. The reason is that BA has vast stocks of the boxes and cannot afford to throw them away. However, once they have been used up, BA promises that the traditional trays which themselves are not one of the air traveller's favourite things — will return.



Wave power: Geoffrey Searle, incoming chairman of the Association of British Independent Oil Exploration Companies in London yesterday

Could there be something to the suspicions of those who say the Treasury cooks the nations books? Following the acquisition of the Civil Service Department, the Treasury now employs 20 times as many cooks and other catering staff as it does economists — 1300 compared with 65.

Field duties

Geoffrey Searle is a man much concerned with politics at the moment, but it isn't "SDP" that bothers him, so much as "SPD", short for Supplementary Petroleum Duty.

Searle is the new chairman of the Association of British Independent Oil Exploration Companies (BRINDEK),

which is about 40 of the small companies outside the big boys of Offshore Operators' Chairman of London and Scottish Marine Oil. Searle takes over at BRINDEK from Rab Suttill, chairman of Thomson North Sea, in what promises to be a bracing year for the smaller North Sea oilseekers. His deputy is John Leonard, chairman of Carless, Capel & Leonard.

The eighth round of licences is likely to be whacked out later this year, says Searle, who is expected that last year's seventh round of licences gave a fair go to British and particularly the smaller British explorers.

However, like Suttill before him, Searle was not at all amused by the supplementary Petroleum Duty that was then slapped on anybody who found oil.

Searle said yesterday: "It's very odd to me and to many of the new British companies who have come in (to the North Sea), that the Government having encouraged more British companies to be formed and to come in, should immediately afterwards increase the taxes to discourage these same companies."

Me Jane

Having revealed last month that Janice Robinson was to quit her job as editor of Consumers' Association's Which? Wine Guide and Which? Wine Monthly, it is a pleasure to record that she is to be succeeded by Jane MacQuitty, hitherto manager of the food and wine section of House and Garden. It was regrettable that the new recruit could not have been given a more auspicious send-off. Not only did CA send out a muzzy photograph which made the poor girl look like an advanced case of delirium tremens, but the press release CA is putting out also spells wrongly the only wine mentions.

No doubt standards will be raised when Miss MacQuitty, who was not only both Glenfiddich Wine Writer and Whisky Writer of 1981 but who at 27 was also the youngest ever to win such an award, takes up her appointment in March.

London bus conductors liked Ken Livingstone's fare deal. But for a different reason to most of us. One of them said: "All the fights late at night start when you ask a drunk for 50p or so for his fare home. He resists. But now you ask him for a mere 20p and he's not so mad. Almost like a lamb in comparison."

Ross Davies

Wallchart

TO SIGNIFY A BRIGHTER, MORE OPTIMISTIC APPROACH TO 1982, I'VE DECIDED TO DRESS ACCORDINGLY.....



Stock Exchange Prices

Little interest

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 11. Dealings End Jan 22. § Contango Day, Jan 25. Settlement Day, Feb 1
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

[illegible]

Cricket

England will play a semi-fit Botham in their final thrust

From Richard Streeton
Madras, Jan 12

England intend to select Ian Botham even if he is only 50 per cent fit when the fifth Test match with India starts here tomorrow. Botham's presence is felt to be vital to England's effort to level the series that the four selectors are willing to include him in the hope that he might contribute something as a batsman and could be strong enough to bowl before the game is completed.

Botham still had a high temperature today from the virus infection which has laid him low, after spending the night sweating profusely. Botham himself is determined to play, which to anyone who knows the man probably settles the issue. The particular type of virus infection can pass as rapidly as it strikes a man down, though the patient, inevitably, is left weak.

Apart from the odd bout of asthma, Botham has hardly had a day's illness in his life. He has many strong men in these circumstances one gathers he is proving both a bad patient and a puzzled one. It speaks volumes to his worth to England that the selectors would be prepared to gamble on a semi-fit player. As Fletcher, the captain, put it, "He is irreplaceable to us as batsman or bowler, even though at the same time, I believe we can still win this game if he does not happen and it really does prove impossible to pick him."

England named 13 of the original 16-strong touring party today as candidates for tomorrow's match. Compared with the side in last week's fourth Test at Calcutta, Allott and Dillie definitely come in for Boycott and Embury. Cook stands by to play for Botham once more. There was better news this morning of Taylor, who was able to practise after his nose and throat problems but Richards will keep wicket if Taylor has any relapse.

All these matters will be resolved while most people in England are still asleep and it is superfluous to enlarge on them at any length. If Botham does play, the plan is for Tavaré to open with Gooch and Dillie. Fletcher to bat at no 3. Tavaré has not opened in first class cricket for five years, although he has done very well in limited overs' matches. Tavaré does not mind the responsibility but hopes England win the test, as he does not enjoy having to come off the field and re-emerge 10 minutes later to bat.

By leaning over backwards to include Botham in the team, England has at long last faced up to the fact that they are not going to dismiss India on Indian pitches with fewer than five main bowlers. For the fates to fall on England's intent, now would indeed be an ironic twist. Nor does England's eleventh hour change of thinking end there. Allott's virtues have finally been recognised and he will share the new ball with Willis on a pitch which has been interpreted as likely to aid pace and bounce.

Lever, who has lost both accuracy and hostility in recent weeks, is omitted and the third fast bowling place goes to Dillie, whose greater speed, it is hoped, will offset some recent waywardness in direction.

Various circumstances have combined to prevent Fletcher seeing a great deal of Allott in match play on this tour. The Lancashire bowler's form at Lancashire last weekend was so good that he was named as captain when he had the chance to watch him from sideways on. Fletcher today was generous in his appraisal of the bowler, who has gained half a yard in pace and can now bowl a bouncer that can make people hop about a bit.

To many onlookers on this tour Allott's greatest virtue has been his ability to bowl straight and to sustain his effort. So far in this series the prime fault of England's quicker bowlers has been their inability to bowl straight and to sustain their effort. So far in this series the prime fault of England's quicker bowlers has been their inability to bowl straight and to sustain their effort.

Botham, of course, is so richly endowed with natural aptitude that England are perfectly correct to want him to play regardless of his state of health. The plan is for Tavaré to open with Gooch and Dillie. Fletcher to bat at no 3. Tavaré has not opened in first class cricket for five years, although he has done very well in limited overs' matches. Tavaré does not mind the responsibility but hopes England win the test, as he does not enjoy having to come off the field and re-emerge 10 minutes later to bat.



Botham: determined to play

deal to the party's overall spirit in spite of not getting as much cricket as they would have liked.

India seem certain to omit Gopal Sharma, the off-spinner, from their 12, meaning that the all-rounder, Yashpal Sharma, will play and that Pramod Roy and Ashok Malhotra will make their Test debuts.

Fletcher did not think India were any stronger for having dropped the aggressive Srikanth from their side. Srikanth may always have been giving the bowlers a chance but if he stayed on for more hours it would mean he had sixty plus to his credit. Most people see the inclusion of Roy and Yashpal Sharma, who bowled in medium pace, as an indication that India are intent on another draw, and they could be right. Tomorrow's match represents England's final chance to keep the rubber alive, with everyone unanimous that the sixth Test in Kanpur will be drawn, five years ago under Gooch and Richards.

England's bowlers have been accused of all sorts of machinations. With or without a partially fit Botham, they are going to find it much harder this time. That dreadful last afternoon batting collapse in Bombay that cost England the first Test will surely haunt Fletcher and his team.

England's bowlers have been accused of all sorts of machinations. With or without a partially fit Botham, they are going to find it much harder this time. That dreadful last afternoon batting collapse in Bombay that cost England the first Test will surely haunt Fletcher and his team.

W Indies ease into finals

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Sydney, Jan 12

Pakistan, playing under floodlights for the first time, were no match for West Indies here today, losing their one-day game in the World Series Cup, sponsored by Benson and Hedges, by seven wickets.

Needing 192 to win, West Indies got the runs with 7.5 overs to spare. The result ensures West Indies of their customary place in the finals of the competition and keeps alive, albeit faintly, Australia's hopes of joining them there.

Pakistan, without Majid, who has hurt his back, Mandassar, who has a finger injury, and Sarfaraz, who complains of finding the white ball too easy to catch, were heavily out-gunned today. Needing 250 to make a close match of it, in poor conditions for batting, they were never likely to get them after being 32 for three with Zaheer out for one.

Pakistan's fielding was nothing like as good as against Australia last Saturday — on winning the toss they opted to use the natural grass for batting and to field after sunset. The result was a disaster. Greenidge, Richards and Lloyd in punishing form with the bat.

Should the same two sides meet in the final, which is the best of five matches, the first of them at the end of next week, Pakistan will have to bat to the best of their ability if they are to have any chance. This, today.

they failed to do. Having started with their first, they were glad in the end to make even as many as they did.

Two of Pakistan's first three batsmen, Mansoor and Zaheer, were run out. At 75 for five, with Mansoor and Saleem also gone, the game was in need of someone to save it, which, to some extent, Inam, helped by Wasim Raja and Imran, did.

Imran, who was not out, was a splendid innings. He has a considerable following in Australia, where the female of the species are greatly taken by him. He is also a true cricketer.

When West Indies batted, Pakistan's total was soon made to look meagre. Greenidge went off with a rush, despite a groggy knee, and for a while Richards played as he can.

Richards, for him, is having a moderate tour, with an average below 30 in the representative matches. At Melbourne last Saturday, he was a first-class batsman, he had a fearful struggle making 32. Today, if not for long, he was the master again. By the time he was out, he was bowled having a swing — he and Greenidge had put the result beyond doubt.

Pakistan were in much trouble against West Indies as they were today, Mansoor, as a last resort, was sent in to bat. With four for 25, Wasim won the match against all the odds.

Coming on tonight at 63 for one, in only the thirteenth over,

he again bowled well, but not as well as he did in the first over, spinning the ball and making it bounce. Purveyors of leg breaks in Australia as they are in England.

The attendance was 10,955, not counting the Bunbury Club girls who provided the entertainment during the dinner hour with almost naked legs of war among themselves.

PAKISTAN
Mansoor Khan, 12; Imran Khan, 13; Zaheer Abbas, 14; Mansoor Ali Khan, 15; Wasim Raja, 16; Inam-ul-Haq, 17; Imran Khan, 18; Mansoor Ali Khan, 19; Wasim Raja, 20; Inam-ul-Haq, 21; Imran Khan, 22; Mansoor Ali Khan, 23; Wasim Raja, 24; Inam-ul-Haq, 25; Imran Khan, 26; Mansoor Ali Khan, 27; Wasim Raja, 28; Inam-ul-Haq, 29; Imran Khan, 30; Mansoor Ali Khan, 31; Wasim Raja, 32; Inam-ul-Haq, 33; Imran Khan, 34; Mansoor Ali Khan, 35; Wasim Raja, 36; Inam-ul-Haq, 37; Imran Khan, 38; Mansoor Ali Khan, 39; Wasim Raja, 40; Inam-ul-Haq, 41; Imran Khan, 42; Mansoor Ali Khan, 43; Wasim Raja, 44; Inam-ul-Haq, 45; Imran Khan, 46; Mansoor Ali Khan, 47; Wasim Raja, 48; Inam-ul-Haq, 49; Imran Khan, 50; Mansoor Ali Khan, 51; Wasim Raja, 52; Inam-ul-Haq, 53; Imran Khan, 54; Mansoor Ali Khan, 55; Wasim Raja, 56; Inam-ul-Haq, 57; Imran Khan, 58; Mansoor Ali Khan, 59; Wasim Raja, 60; Inam-ul-Haq, 61; Imran Khan, 62; Mansoor Ali Khan, 63; Wasim Raja, 64; Inam-ul-Haq, 65; Imran Khan, 66; Mansoor Ali Khan, 67; Wasim Raja, 68; 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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1	BBC 2	ITV/LONDON	Radio 4	Radio 3	Radio 2
<p>9.30 For Schools, Colleges: Science Workshop. 10.00 You and I. For the very young (not for schools). 10.15 Maths. 10.30 Maths. 10.45 Geography. 11.00 Words and Pictures. 11.17 Film Music. 11.40 St Lucia as a tourist island. 12.00 Closedown. 12.30 News Afternoon with Jeremy Thompson and Maura Stuart. 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only). Financial report and news headlines with sub-10.00. 1.00 Pebble Mill at One. Included today is the new cookery slot presented by Glyn Christian. 1.45 Postman Pat. A See-Saw programme for the very young (r). 2.01 For Schools, Colleges: Life on board Captain Cook's Endeavour. 2.18 Twentieth-Century History: Why Appeasement? 2.40 Travellers. 3.05 Songs of praise from the Church of the Transfiguration. Kewal Risa, introduced by Michael Barrett (r). 3.40 Play It Safe. Advice from Jimmy Saville on safety (r). 3.53 Regional news (not London).</p>	<p>10.20 Gharbar: A magazine programme for Asian women. 10.45 Closedown. 11.00 Play School. For the under fives presented by Christopher Ashcroft and Fred Harris. The story this morning is The New Blue Umbrella by Christopher Walker. 11.25 Closedown. 12.30 Open University: Developing Mathematical Thinking. Subtraction. 1.20 Closedown. 3.55 Landscapes of England. The second of twelve explorations by Professor W. G. Hoskins takes us to the Lake District. This wonderful part of the country is not as untouched by man as it appears. Professor Hoskins explains his claim that the lakes have been influenced by man (r). 4.20 Images of War: The second of six programmes featuring the reminiscences of World War Two cameramen (r). 4.40 Tigris: Following the Sumerian Voyage of Thor Heyerdahl. 5.30 They're Playing My Tune. George Melly recalls the song that changed his life and where and when he heard it (r). 5.40 Undersea Kingdom. Part six of a thirteen part series about a submarine. The Juggernaut Strikes. Life on Earth: Part eleven. The Hunters and the Hunted. Introduced by David Attenborough (r). 6.55 The Water Margin: The first of a thirteen part series about a Chinese Japanese warrior (r). 7.40 News with sub-titles. 7.45 Beaux Arts Trio Play Schubert. 8.30 International Drama: Highlights of the quarterfinal matches in the World Professional Championship being played at Stoke-on-Trent.</p>	<p>9.30 For Schools: Insight. 9.47 Picture Box. 10.04 The uses of trees and wood in different environments. 10.18 A visit to the German town of Havelburg. 10.38 Self-discovery. 11.02 Tracing the course of the River Thames. 11.20 Practical science. 11.39 The General Election of 1945. 12.00 The Munch Bunch. Adventures of animated vegetables for the very young. 12.10 Rainbow. Learning with puppets. 12.30 Play It Again. Tony Bilbow plays host to Rowan Atkinson who selects clips from his favourite films. 1.00 News. 1.20 Thames news. 1.30 Take the High Road. Drama serial about a Highland estate. 2.00 Afternoon Plus with Mary Parkinson and Kay Avis. 2.45 The Lada Snooker Classic. Live coverage of the seventeenth frame final from the Oldham Civic Centre. The commentator is John Putnam. There is further coverage in Mid-week Sports Special at 10.30.</p>	<p>6.00 News Briefing. 6.10 Farming Today. 6.20 Today. 6.45 The Widower by Georges Simonon (r). 9.00 News. 9.05 Midweek: Henry Kelly. 10.00 News. 10.02 Gardeners' Question Time. Daily Yorkshire. 10.30 Daily Service. 10.40 The Story: "Enterprise" by Jill Norris. 11.00 News. 11.05 Baker's Dozen. 11.40 The Story: "Enterprise" by Jill Norris. 12.02 You and Yours. Consumer advice programmes. 12.27 Around the World in 25 years. 1.00 The World at One. 1.40 The Archers. 2.00 News. 2.02 Women's Hour. 3.00 News. 3.02 "Indian Ray" by Eric Searle. 3.50 Zoo Talk. 4.00 Elisabeth Soderstrom. A tribute to other world famous singers from Sweden. 4.45 Story Time: "The Rover" by Joseph Conrad (r). 5.55 Weather. 6.00 News and Financial Report. 6.30 My World. 7.00 News. 7.05 The Archers. 7.20 All in the Family. The history of the Macdonald family. 7.30 The Archers. 7.45 The Archers. 7.50 The Archers. 8.00 News. 8.05 The Archers. 8.10 The Archers. 8.15 The Archers. 8.20 The Archers. 8.25 The Archers. 8.30 The Archers. 8.35 The Archers. 8.40 The Archers. 8.45 The Archers. 8.50 The Archers. 8.55 The Archers. 9.00 The Archers. 9.05 The Archers. 9.10 The Archers. 9.15 The Archers. 9.20 The Archers. 9.25 The Archers. 9.30 The Archers. 9.35 The Archers. 9.40 The Archers. 9.45 The Archers. 9.50 The Archers. 9.55 The Archers. 10.00 The Archers. 10.05 The Archers. 10.10 The Archers. 10.15 The Archers. 10.20 The Archers. 10.25 The Archers. 10.30 The Archers. 10.35 The Archers. 10.40 The Archers. 10.45 The Archers. 10.50 The Archers. 10.55 The Archers. 11.00 The Archers. 11.05 The Archers. 11.10 The Archers. 11.15 The Archers. 11.20 The Archers. 11.25 The Archers. 11.30 The Archers. 11.35 The Archers. 11.40 The Archers. 11.45 The Archers. 11.50 The Archers. 11.55 The Archers. 12.00 The Archers. 12.05 The 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GLC leader refuses to bow to fares ruling

By David Walker

Mr Kenneth Livingstone, Labour leader of the Greater London Council, said last night there were no circumstances in which he would comply with the judgment of the House of Lords on cheap fares.

However, proposals to double London bus and train fares in March seemed likely to squeeze through the first full meeting of the GLC since the judgment. Both Labour and Conservative benches divided on the issue.

The GLC's officials had strongly urged on councillors a package of measures which, they said, the law now demanded. These ran from a drastic cut in the subsidy paid to London Transport, to the ending of concessionary fares for pensioners. As a result of the package, fares would first have to rise by 100 per cent, and possibly by another 50 to 100 per cent later in the year. Bus and underground services would have to be cut by at least 25 per cent and staff made redundant.

Mr Livingstone held that the advice was sound, but he could not follow it. "There are other Labour councillors who have made it clear that their respect for the law forces them to support the Law Lords, whatever the consequences."

"The crisis we face is not one that any one party should simply exploit for its own partisan advantage. I urge my colleagues not to make this a divisive issue."

He proposed to mobilise the support of Londoners to secure amending legislation from the Government. He did not intend to vote for fare increases or dramatic cuts in services which would eventually lead to major job losses and would do nothing to help the quality of life in London.

Mr Livingstone said there were those who shared his views that these measures were so appalling they could not bring themselves to vote for them. "I cannot find it in my heart to comply with a decision which does so much damage to the interests of London, to public transport, industry and commerce."

"We intend as a Labour group to fight in a completely united position outside this chamber to mobilise popular support so the Government is forced to introduce amending legislation which will save the position of the pensioners' bus passes and allow us to continue to subsidise London Transport. I urge Labour colleagues that this is not an issue which should divide the Labour Party with acrimony."

For the Conservatives, their leader Sir Horace Cutler, rejected the advice of the officials and lawyers. An increase in fares of only 60 per cent was needed. "I have always been suspicious of legal opinion. Old Aged Pensioners can take it from me that we will do everything in our power."

He said that Labour had created a chaotic mess in London Transport. Amid interruptions from Mr Livingstone's supporters, Sir Horace warned: "If Mr Livingstone thinks we are going to pull his hot chestnuts out of the fire so that he can get off the griddle he has another thing coming."

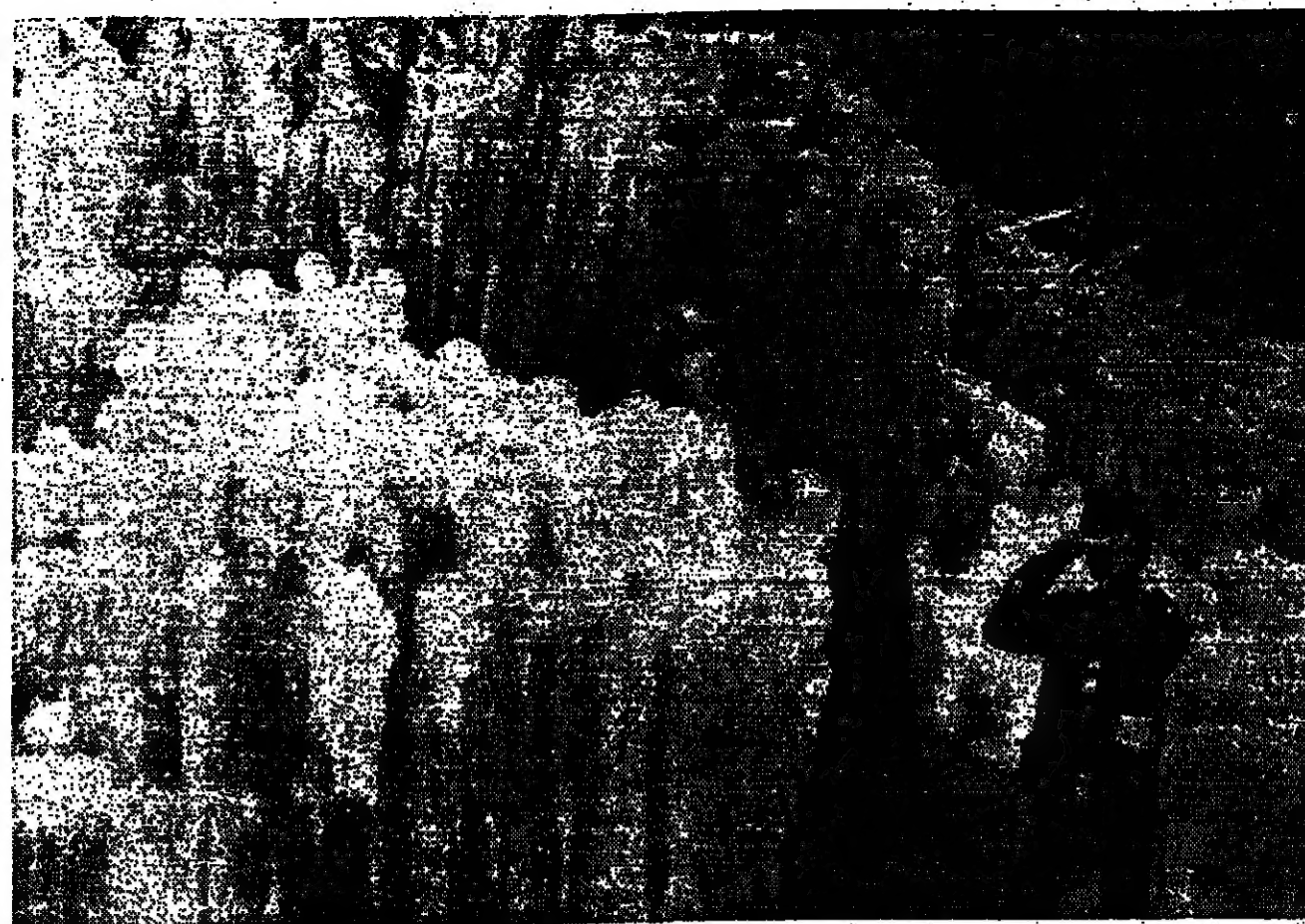
Dr Tony Hart introduced a report of the GLC's Finance and General Purposes Committee. It would, he said, consider short-term measures to give the council the powers that everyone thought it had, to subsidise London Transport and produce a transport system in London which would meet the population's needs.

The joint report expressed concern that the Conservative Party, having lost the GLC, had been able to use the Court of Appeal and the Law Lords "to reverse the decision of the electorate on improving London Transport's service levels and cutting fares."

A decision on raising bus and rail fares in Greater Manchester was deferred yesterday by the county's Passenger Transport Committee.

Mr Tony Harrison, the committee's chief executive, said that urgent legal advice was being taken on the implications for the county of the Law Lords' ruling.

The committee approved a budget of £16.3m for the next year in spite of the fact that it will produce a budget deficit of £17.6m. Mr Harrison said he believed that a fares subsidy of around £1m a week would probably be legal but as the subsidy required in the newly approved budget was more than £70m legal advice was being taken.



Fountain of ice: Miss Kimberly Harstad, of San Antonio, Texas, poses for her friend Mr John McKenna, of Lyttelton, New Zealand, in front of a backdrop of icicles at the Marble Arch fountain in central London.

Tricksters swoop on snowbound villages

Continued from page 1

operations. Some areas faced the additional hazard of polluted drinking water and Welsh Office medical experts advised people who buy milk direct from farms to boil it before drinking.

BL is using helicopters and convoys of trucks led by snow ploughs to ferry components from Wales in an effort to keep its Midlands car plants working, but it appeared to be losing last night as dense fog blanketed the Midlands, grounding helicopters and bringing chaos to the roads.

Mr Harold Masgrave, chairman of BL's Light medium car operations, said: "We are within two days of a complete shutdown. Unless we can step up supplies from South Wales, production will have to halt at Longbridge and Cowley. That could mean 20,000 workers laid off with more to follow."

Mr Brian Fox, operations director at Longbridge, said BL had lost only three per cent of its production programme, but was fast running out of heavier parts such as sub frames which could not be carried by helicopter.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, suggested a res-

praisal of Britain's notoriously ad hoc approach to winter weather. "We have not in the past expected such bitter winters so early in the season. They do seem to be happening more frequently and it may well be that governments are going to have to re-examine the situation."

Mr Heseltine, speaking on BBC Radio said it was a myth that other countries cope more efficiently with ice and snow. A colleague had been snowed out of London on Monday, he said.

Meanwhile, freezing fog continued to cover East Anglia and central England, with visibility as low as five yards on some roads. Monitoring organisations reported waiting to travel only if necessary and then with extreme caution.

As Britain continued to freeze, so did the rest of the world. In the United States, where the weather has killed at least 53 people, a new blizzard hit Buffalo, New York, leaving 25 inches of snow.

Several people, mostly elderly, froze to death in their houses. In France, the weather began to improve after two weeks of widespread flooding, but about 200,000 people remained without electricity.

Wave of wellie buying swamps the shops

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

The signs are going up at many High Street footwear shops: Wellies—out of stock. A wet autumn and two bouts of snow and slush have already been too much for Britain's main four makers and the importers who in the past few years have been flooding the market with brightly coloured plastic wellies.

Even Britain's biggest chain of footwear shops, operated by the British Shoe Corporation, has run out of stock. "Wellies of all colours and sizes are selling thick and fast. It has been incredible, especially in the past four weeks," said Mr Geoffrey Maitland Smith, deputy chairman and chief executive of Sears Holdings, British Shoe's parent company.

Independent outlets with less stock back-up are already becoming scarce. In one retailer in Kingston, London, brought in 1,000 pairs of £7 wellies made in Holland and within 24 hours had less than a dozen pairs left. British shoe sales reports heavy sales of leather boots and shoes over the weekend, but shoes over the weekend of yesterday, yesterday, which are now usually made

from plastic and largely imported. Sports goods shops have been cleaned out of those too, warm, pleated boots—"Moon Boots" is one label—and as the wellie shortage grows those anxious to remain dry should have been going for higher-grade specialist waterproof boots intended for fishermen and other outdoor types.

The recent appearance of the Princess of Wales in green field boots has done a power of good for the sales of this upper-class wellie, according to Uniroyal which produces them as well as more mundane wellies. Its Dundee factory, Uniroyal has already geared up its production by a fifth, but 10 times that amount would be needed to meet current demands from clamouring retailers, according to Mr Tony Duckworth, former sales manager at Uniroyal.

Plastic wellies, when they can be found, sell at between £4 and £6 while the rubber variety are likely to cost £10 or more. Specialised field boots are up to £15. That, it would appear, is not a high price to pay for foot comfort in snow and flood.

Evolution according to Hoyle

Survivors of disaster in an earlier world

By Nicholas Thomas

Professor Sir Fred Hoyle, the man who brought you the theory that life on earth has arrived from outer space, is a cosmological material, has taken the proposition one stage further. He now says Man is the re-emergence of a previous intelligence which, faced with an environmental catastrophe of cosmological proportions, broke up that intelligence into a bit of basic building blocks which was distributed throughout space.

That bit included the basic biological materials that form life as we know it. Arriving in a suitable environment, the Earth—the bit was able to develop into a living organism, fuelled by further additions of genetic material that still arrive from outer space.

It is a theory that Sir Fred believes to be intelligent design, rather than the structures of life which have a complex design could not have occurred by chance. Science maintains, by chance.

Sir Fred outlined the ideas yesterday at the Royal Institution, in the annual lecture sponsored by Omega, a science and science-fiction to such effect that it sold one million copies a month worldwide.

Sir Fred, however, would have us believe that the theory that life began in a primordial soup, which by some random process produced the 200,000 precisely ordered chains of amino-acids on which life depends.

The chance of that happening, he says, is like rolling an unmarked sequence of 5,000,000 zeros on an unbiased die.

He goes on to attack the Darwinian theory of random selection, operating on random mutations of genes, to produce more highly evolved plants and animals. Since disastrous mutations are surely much more frequent than beneficial ones, the overall effect must be that the process runs downhill, he says.

Given that the ordering of the biomaterials that support life could not have been produced by chance, Sir Fred said, one is driven to the conclusion that the order must be the outcome of intelligent design.

The strongest reason for an intelligence creating carbonaceous life—life as we know it—would be stark necessity. An intelligence far in advance of ours, faced with an insupportable change in the cosmological environment, would ask whether the material structure of their bodies was of fundamental importance to what they really are.

They would conclude it was not—just as we have an instinctive feeling that what we really are might exist without our bodies. With the advantage of an immense technology, they could find a new material structure for their bodies, a store of information that constituted themselves their intelligence—could be transferred. Like any good computer programme, the whole would be put together as a kit of tiny sub-units and sub-routines. In this case, the genetic fragments that are the sub-routines of biology.

Thus carbonaceous life was put together as a deliberate act of creation, to be built upwards, in a process that is still continuing, from the building blocks of genetic fragments.

Evolution is thus driven by a willing power, for about not driven from within by a Darwinian struggle for survival which cannot explain the emergence of a Mozart, or a man whose special is destined to tread, Sir Fred said.

Alleged threat to Thatcher

Continued from page 1

son and weigh things up in my mind."

A few months before the alleged attack his home life had become strained, and he believed his "whole family situation was collapsing."

His stepmother was having affairs with other women and his mother used to cry over it. "It used to get to me. But my father used to give me a message of his love. I learned to stay clear of him," he said.

Dec. Chief Insp. Edward Rosbury said: "I was fully convinced that if he had done across the Prime Minister he would have stabbed her."

He said Mr Rosbury was "very logical, sincere and very determined." He was apparently very sorry that he had not achieved his ambition that day.

I didn't think he was the full amount, but I may have been wrong. I am sure that the man was a very good man. The trial continues today.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

Princess Alexandra attends concert given by Barry Manilow, Albert Hall, 7.20.

Exhibitions

Alice, exhibition of Lewis Carroll characters, Centre Hall, Glasgow Art Gallery, 10 to 5. Dürer and contemporary printmakers in Germany, Charing Cross Print Room, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, 2 to 5.

Palings and drawings by Tim

Clubs, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, 10 to 4.

Prints and watercolours by Michael Cullmore, Anthony Davies and John Macfarlane, St Paul's Gallery, St Paul's Street, Leeds, 10 to 5.

Mary Rose Exhibition and Art Gallery, Derby Museum and Art Gallery, Derby, 10 to 6.

Weaving by Lesley Millar, Art Gallery, Civic Centre, Tunbridge Wells, 10 to 5.30.

Solidarity bulletins and pam-

phlets, British Labour, Great Russell Street, W.C.1, 10 to 5.

Plants of South China, drawings by a Cantonese or Macao artist, Edith Robinson, 39 Duke Street, St James's, SW1, 10 to 5.30.

Creative exhibition of Gilbert and George post card pieces, Anthony d'Oilly, 23 Dering Street, New Bond Street, W.1, 10 to 5.30.

Talks, lectures, films

International data communications, by P. M. Perry, Poynting Building, University of Birmingham, 11.

Conservation epitaphs, 1940-1950, by Michael Powers, Friends of Burgh House, New End Square, Hampstead, NW3, 8.

The future of small businesses, by J. E. Bolton CBE, Royal Society of Arts, 8 John Adam Street, W.C.2, 6.

Decorative arts of China, by Gillian Dury, Victoria and Albert Museum, 1.15.

The Pound

	Back	Bank
	buy	sell
Australia \$	1.75	1.57
Austria Sch	2.70	2.39
Belgium Fr	81.75	89.75
Canada S	2.21	2.13
Denmark Kr	14.36	12.36
Finland Mk	8.79	8.39
France Fr	11.40	10.39
Germany DM	4.39	4.25
Greece Dr	11.25	10.81
Italy L	242.69	210.00
Japan Y	317.50	317.50
Netherlands Gld	4.92	4.66
Norway S	11.47	10.47
Portugal Esc	122.70	122.70
South Africa R	2.06	1.90
Spain Pta	163.39	154.39
Sweden Kr	11.40	10.42
Switzerland Fr	5.67	5.27
USA \$	1.94	1.87
Yugoslavia Din	96.00	89.00

Notes for small denominations are available from the Bank of England, London. The FT Index fell 9.0 to 324.6.

The papers

As both sides in the cut dispute refuse to surrender, says the Daily Mirror, a compromise will have to be found. "It will take months for the union to make up its mind what they will lose even in a two-day strike. It will never recover its losses. No one will quit and everyone will lose. What a way to run a railway," it says.

Commenting yesterday on the outcome of the New England ministers' meeting, the Washington Post said "though the Alliance continues to deal with several lands and a new speaking with one voice."

Postal delays

Letters and parcels posted yesterday today and tomorrow will be delayed because of the rail strike, and some express facilities cannot be maintained during this period. But weather is causing additional delays to post, particularly in S-Wales, the West Country and some parts of the Midlands.

Anniversaries today

Charles Perroux born in Paris, 1928. Edmund Spenser died in London, 1593; and George Fox also died in London, 1691.

Travel

For pre-recorded information on rail, air and road travel in Britain, call British Telecom's Traveline: 01-246 9021.

The following Weather Centres are open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, for weather advice: Bristol: 0121 272598; Cardiff: 0222 555555; Manchester: 061 262 6701; Newcastle: 0632 25453; Nottingham: 0502 234052; Southampton (open 8 am to 10 pm): 0703 28344.

Rail strike

No trains today or tomorrow. Some because of the rail strike will be manned to answer passenger queries.

Parking

There will be no free parking at meters in London. Parking restrictions will be enforced to avoid congestion. Extra parking facilities for private vehicles in London, including areas in Hyde Park, Regent Park, St James's Park, Battersea Park, Victoria Park, Highbury, Dulwich Park, and Peabody Park, are suspended.

Car sharing

Motorists can offer lifts without incurring their insurance. Because they will accept a contribution towards running costs of the car. Under a car-sharing agreement with the Government, insurance companies are prepared to include the driver of lifts in their standard policy. The minimum legal requirements of compulsory third party insurance.

Buses to Gatwick

Special coaches to Gatwick for South Caledonian inter-continental passengers will run during the rail strike. From the airport Victoria terminal, call 0293 25555. There will be extra buses on Gatwick 777 routes between Gatwick and Victoria Coach Station during rail strike; also half-hourly coaches between Gatwick and Victoria, call 0293 502116 or 01-223 1234.

Accommodation

The London Tourist Board has made special arrangements to help workers to book hotels in the city: call 01-730 3450 before 5.30 tonight for bookings over a range of hotels; or bookings can be made in person at National Tourist Information Centre, Victoria Station, from 9 am to 8.30 pm.

Airports

All airports operating normally; slight delay from the Continent no longer delayed because of bad weather.

The Times list of best-selling books

Hardback

Guinness Book of Records 1982	54.99
The White Horse	14.99
Invitation to a Royal Wedding	14.99

Paperback

Guinness Book of Records 1982	14.99
The White Horse	14.99
Invitation to a Royal Wedding	14.99

Weather

An anticyclone will continue to drift slowly into the Continent; troughs of low pressure approach NW Britain.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, Central S England: Dry after clearing, but with light rain or drizzle in the evening. Wind E to SE, moderate; rain temp 8 to 12 (12 to 15).
E. Kent, SE Wales, E. Central N England: Drier, but with light rain or drizzle in the evening. Wind E to SE, moderate; rain temp 8 to 12 (12 to 15).
Wales, W. Central N England: Drier, but with light rain or drizzle in the evening. Wind E to SE, moderate; rain temp 8 to 12 (12 to 15).
N. England, W. Wales, E. Central N England: Drier, but with light rain or drizzle in the evening. Wind E to SE, moderate; rain temp 8 to 12 (12 to 15).
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W. Wales, E. Central N England: Drier, but with light rain or drizzle in the evening. Wind E to SE, moderate; rain temp 8 to 12 (12 to 15).
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